



LAHONTAN
WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATIONS
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
STATEMENT
1987



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
CARSON CITY DISTRICT
CARSON CITY, NEVADA





FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATIONS

for the

LAHONTAN RESOURCE AREA

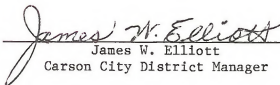
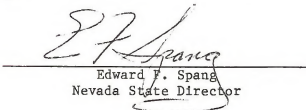
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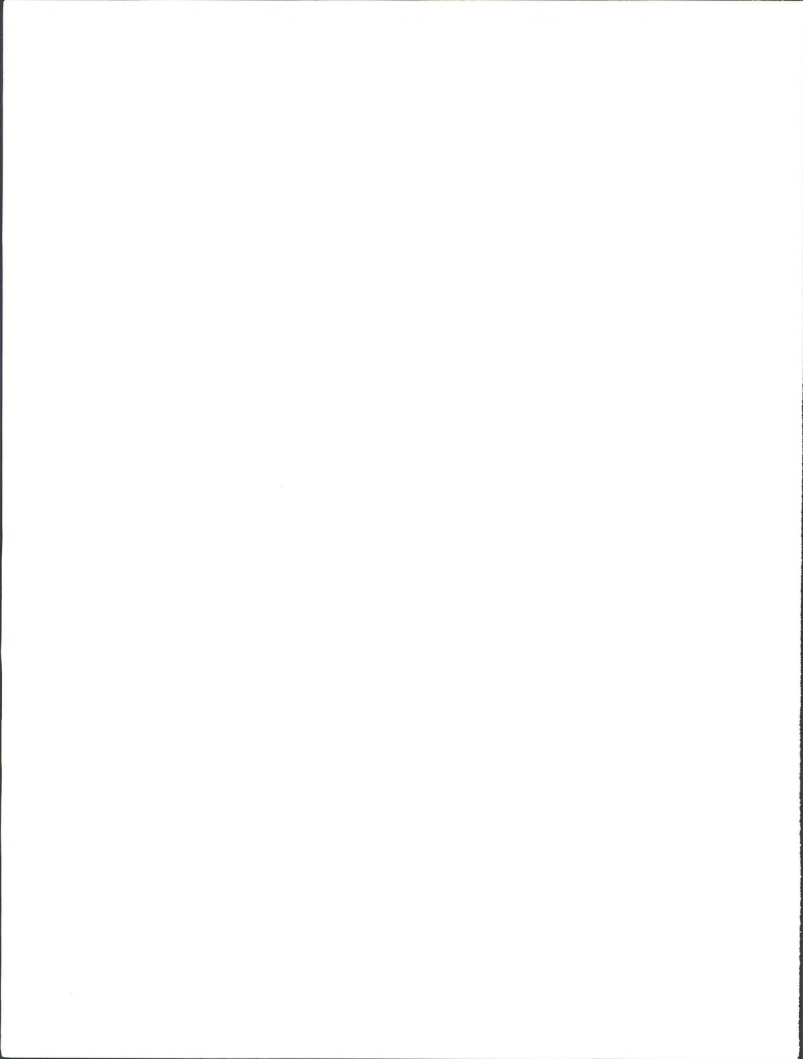
CARSON CITY DISTRICT


James W. Elliott
Carson City District Manager
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The proposed land use plan contains wilderness recommendations for 432,206 acres of public land in Churchill County and a small portion of Lander County, Nevada. The action responds to the mandate of Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to review all public land roadless areas of 5,000 acres or more and roadless islands having wilderness characteristics; determine their suitability or unsuitability for wilderness designation; and report these suitability recommendations to the President no later than October 21, 1991.

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Date final statement was made available to the Environmental Protection Agency and to the public:



SUMMARY



SUMMARY

The purpose of this final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is to analyze the environmental consequences of designating or not designating as wilderness, all or portions of four wilderness study areas (WSAs) in the Lahontan Resource Area, Carson City District.

The four WSAs being studied are covered by the Lahontan Resource Management Plan (RMP). The study areas are listed in Table S-1 below:

Table S-1
LIST OF WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

WSA Name	Number	Acreage	County
Clan Alpine Mountains	NV-030-102	196,128	Churchill
Stillwater Range	NV-030-104	96,607	Churchill
Desatoya Mountains	NV-030-110/060-288	51,262	Churchill/Lander
Job Peak	NV-030-127	90,209	Churchill

Issues

The scoping process for the Lahontan Wilderness EIS encompassed issues identified by the BLM staff, by the public during formal scoping comment periods, at public meetings held in Fallon and Carson City, Nevada (July 1981) and from comments on the draft EIS by the public and by Federal, state and local agencies. The environmental issues identified for analysis in this EIS as a result of the scoping process include the following for all WSAs:

1. Impacts on Wilderness Values
2. Impacts on Motorized Recreation Use
3. Impacts on Development of Mineral/Energy Resources

The following issue was analyzed only for the Clan Alpine Mountains WSA and the Desatoya Mountains WSA:

4. Impacts on Woodland Products Availability

The following issues were identified in scoping, but were not selected for detailed analysis in the EIS:

1. Impacts on Wildlife
2. Impact on Air Quality
3. Impact on Air Quality Classification
4. Impact on Cultural Resources
5. Impacts on Endangered Species
6. Impacts on Livestock Grazing and Range Management
7. Impacts on Wild Horse Management
8. Impacts of Wilderness Designation on U.S. Navy Training Operations

Alternatives and Conclusions

The alternatives assessed in this EIS include: (1) An All Wilderness Alternative for each WSA, (2) a No Wilderness Alternative for each WSA, and (3) one or more Partial Wilderness Alternatives for each WSA.

CLAN ALPINE MOUNTAINS WSA (NV-030-102)

Proposed Action (Alternative C - Partial Wilderness)

Under the Proposed Action, 68,458 acres of the Clan Alpine Mountains WSA would be recommended suitable for wilderness designation and 127,670 acres would be recommended unsuitable for wilderness designation.

The area's most spectacular scenery, natural areas and outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would be retained. There would be a reduction of naturalness and opportunities for solitude on the 127,670 acres not designated wilderness. Wilderness values would be enhanced slightly because of the redistribution of livestock use. Construction and maintenance of additional range improvements would have a negligible impact on the apparent naturalness of the area.

Motorized recreational use would be eliminated on the 68,458 acres designated wilderness and 45 visitor days would be foregone annually. The impacts of shifting this use to other public lands would be negligible. On the 127,670 acres not designated as wilderness, motorized recreational use would continue to increase to approximately 1,100 visitor days annually in the long-term.

Exploration for energy and mineral resources on 68,458 acres recommended suitable for wilderness designation would be foregone. There would be no impact on exploration or development of mineral and energy resources on the 127,670 acres recommended nonsuitable. One small surface mine is expected to be developed in the northern portion of the nonsuitable parcel.

Woodland products availability would be reduced by approximately 6 percent within the Lahontan RMP area. Ninety-four percent of the manageable woodlands within the RMP area would remain available for harvest. Approximately 2,360 acres of productive woodland would not be available for firewood cutting or commercial harvest of pine nuts.

Alternative A (All Wilderness)

Under Alternative A, the entire 196,128 acres of the Clan Alpine Mountains WSA would be recommended suitable for wilderness designation.

Wilderness values would be enhanced slightly because of the elimination of recreational ORV use on ways and the redistribution of livestock use. Construction and maintenance of additional range improvements would have a negligible impact on the apparent naturalness of the area.

Recreational ORV use of 300 visitor days would be foregone annually. The impacts of shifting this use to other public lands would be negligible.

Exploration for mineral and energy resources would be foregone on 3,100 acres with high and 191,600 acres with moderate potential for metallic minerals, and 5,300 acres with high and 190,800 acres with moderate potential for geothermal resources. Development of one small gold and silver surface mine, approximately 50 acres in size, would be foregone.

Woodland products availability would be reduced by about 29 percent within the Lahontan RMP area. Approximately 10,850 acres of productive woodland would be unavailable for harvest.

Alternative D (No Wilderness)

Under Alternative D, the 196,128 acre Clan Alpine Mountains WSA would be recommended nonsuitable for wilderness designation.

There would be a reduction of the area's naturalness and opportunities for solitude in the long-term primarily because of energy and mineral exploration and development activities, and continued and increasing ORV use. There would be negligible impacts to wilderness values due to the maintenance of range facilities and the harvest of woodland products. Wilderness values would be enhanced slightly due to the redistribution of livestock use.

Recreational ORV use would increase to approximately 1600 visitor days per year in the foreseeable future.

Energy and mineral resources would be available for exploration and development. Development of one small precious metals mine is anticipated.

There would be no impact on woodland products availability. About 10,850 acres of productive woodlands, accounting for approximately 29 percent of the harvestable woodlands within the RMP area, would be available for woodland management.

Alternative B (Partial Wilderness)

Under this alternative, 158,504 acres of the Clan Alpine Mountains WSA would be recommended suitable for wilderness designation and 37,624 acres would be recommended unsuitable for wilderness designation.

The area's most spectacular scenery, natural areas and opportunities for primitive recreation and solitude would be retained. Lands within the WSA which have more moderate wilderness values also would be protected. On the 37,624 acres not designated wilderness, there would be a reduction of naturalness and opportunities for solitude in the long-term. Wilderness values would be enhanced by the redistribution of livestock use. Construction and maintenance of additional range improvements would have a negligible impact on the apparent naturalness of the area.

Motorized recreational use would be eliminated on the 158,504 acres designated wilderness and 150 visitor days would be foregone annually. The impacts of shifting this use to other public lands would be negligible. On the cherrystemmed roads which remain open and the 37,624 acres of the WSA not designated as wilderness, motorized recreational use would continue to increase to about 1400 visitor days annually in the long-term.

Exploration for energy and mineral resources on 158,504 acres recommended suitable for wilderness designation would be foregone. There would be no impact on exploration activities or development of mineral and energy resources on the 37,624 acres recommended unsuitable. One small precious metals surface mine is expected to be developed in the northern portion of the WSA, adjacent to the area recommended suitable.

Woodland products availability would be reduced by approximately 19 percent within the Lahontan RMP area. Eighty-one percent of the manageable woodlands within the RMP area would remain available for harvest. About 7,100 acres of productive woodland would not be available for firewood or Christmas tree cutting or commercial harvest of pine nuts.

STILLWATER RANGE WSA (NV-030-104)

Proposed Action (Alternative D - No Wilderness)

Under the Proposed Action, the 94,607 acre Stillwater Range WSA would be recommended unsuitable for wilderness designation.

On the 94,607 acres of the WSA, there would be a reduction of the area's naturalness and opportunities for solitude in the long-term primarily because of energy and mineral exploration and development activities and continued and increasing recreational ORV use. There would be negligible impacts to wilderness values due to the construction and maintenance of range facilities. Wilderness values would be enhanced slightly as a result of redistribution of livestock use.

Recreational ORV use levels would increase to approximately 500 visitor days per year in the foreseeable future. There would be no impact to motorized recreation use.

Energy and mineral resources would be available for exploration and development. There would be no impact on the exploration for, or development of, mineral resources. Development of two precious metals mines is anticipated, as is a 15-20 megawatt geothermal power plant.

Alternative A (All Wilderness)

Under Alternative A, the entire 94,607 acres of the Stillwater Range WSA would be recommended suitable for wilderness designation.

The wilderness values of naturalness and opportunities for solitude would be enhanced slightly because of the elimination of approximately 100 visitor days of recreational ORV use on primitive vehicle routes and the redistribution of livestock use. Wilderness values would be lost on approximately 105 acres subject to valid existing mineral rights. Visitors to the area would perceive a decrease in the naturalness and solitude opportunities of the area immediately around this activity. The construction of additional range improvements would have a negligible effect upon the perceived naturalness of the area.

Recreational ORV use would be foregone on the 94,607 acres designated wilderness and 100 visitor days would be foregone annually. The impacts of shifting this use to other public lands would be negligible.

Exploration for mineral and energy resources would be foregone on 2,700 acres with high and 87,600 acres with moderate potential for metallic minerals, and 26,900 acres with high and 67,700 acres with moderate potential for geothermal resources. One precious metals mine would be developed on claims expected to meet all validity tests in either Fondaway or Cox Canyons. Development of a second precious metals mine and a 15-20 megawatt geothermal power plant would be foregone.

Alternative B (Partial Wilderness)

Under this alternative, 29,797 acres of the Stillwater Range WSA would be recommended suitable for wilderness designation and 64,810 acres would be recommended unsuitable for wilderness designation.

The area's best scenery, natural areas and opportunities for primitive recreation and solitude would be retained. Lands within the WSA which have more moderate wilderness values also would be protected. Wilderness values would be enhanced slightly due to the redistribution of livestock use. There would be negligible impacts to wilderness values due to the maintenance of range facilities. On the 64,810 acres not designated wilderness, there would be a substantial reduction of wilderness values in the long-term, including naturalness and opportunities for solitude, primarily as a result of mineral and energy exploration and development activities.

Motorized recreational use would be eliminated on the 29,797 acres designated wilderness and 35 visitor days would be foregone annually. The impacts of shifting this use to other public lands would be negligible. On the 64,810 acres of the WSA not designated as wilderness, motorized recreational use would continue to increase to approximately 430 visitor days annually in the long-term.

Exploration for energy and mineral resources on 29,797 acres recommended suitable for wilderness designation would be foregone. There would be no impact on exploration activities or development of mineral and energy resources on the 64,810 acres recommended unsuitable. Two precious metals surface mines are expected to be developed, as is a 15-20 megawatt geothermal power plant.

DESATOYA MOUNTAINS WSA (NV-030-110/060-288)

Proposed Action (Alternative B - Partial Wilderness)

Under the Proposed Action, 43,053 acres of the Desatoya Mountains WSA would be designated wilderness, including 51 acres added to the original WSA to enhance manageability of the area, and 8,260 acres would be recommended unsuitable for wilderness designation.

The area's most spectacular scenery, naturalness and opportunities for primitive recreation and solitude would be retained. On the 8,260 acres not designated wilderness, there would be a substantial reduction of naturalness and opportunities for solitude in the long-term as a result of mineral exploration activities. In both areas, the redistribution of livestock use would slightly enhance wilderness values. There would be negligible impacts to wilderness values as a result of the construction and maintenance of range improvements.

Motorized recreational use would be eliminated on the 43,053 acres designated wilderness and 50 visitor days would be foregone annually. The impacts of shifting this use to other public lands would be negligible. On the 8,260 acres of the WSA not designated as wilderness, motorized recreational use would continue to increase to approximately 510 visitor days annually in the long-term.

Exploration for energy and mineral resources on 43,053 acres recommended suitable for wilderness designation would be foregone. There would be no impact on exploration activities or development of mineral and energy resources on the 8,260 acres recommended nonsuitable.

Woodland products availability would be reduced slightly. About 2,080 acres of productive woodland would be unavailable for firewood cutting or commercial harvest of pine nuts. Within the area covered by the Lahontan RMP, 94.5 percent of the manageable woodlands would remain available for harvest.

Alternative A (All Wilderness)

Under Alternative A, the entire 51,262 acres of the Desatoya Mountains WSA, along with 51 acres added to the original WSA to enhance manageability, would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation.

There would be a slight enhancement of the area's wilderness values of naturalness and opportunities for solitude because of the elimination of approximately 100 visitor days of recreational ORV use on primitive vehicle routes. Visitors to the area may perceive a slight increase in the area's apparent naturalness as a result of the construction of new range improvements which would better distribute livestock use and improve vegetative condition.

Recreational ORV use would be foregone on the 51,313 acres designated wilderness and 100 visitor days would be foregone annually. The impacts of shifting this use to other public lands would be negligible.

Exploration for mineral and energy resources would be foregone. This includes 13,000 acres with moderate potential for both metallic mineral and geothermal resources.

Woodland products availability would be reduced approximately 6 percent within the Lahontan RMP Area. About 2,240 acres of productive pinyon-juniper woodland would be unavailable for harvest.

Alternative D (No Wilderness)

Under Alternative D, the 51,262 acre Desatoya Mountains WSA would be recommended unsuitable for wilderness designation.

On the 51,262 acres of the WSA, there would be a reduction of the area's naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation in the long-term, primarily because of mineral exploration activities, continued and increasing recreational ORV use, maintenance of existing range improvements and harvest of woodland products. Wilderness values would be enhanced slightly as a result of redistribution of livestock use.

Recreational ORV use levels would increase to approximately 600 visitor days per year in the foreseeable future. There would be no impact on motorized recreation use.

Energy and mineral resources would be available for exploration and development. There would be no impact on the exploration for, or development of, mineral resources. No development is anticipated in the foreseeable future.

There would be no impact on woodland products availability. About 2,240 acres of productive woodlands, accounting for approximately 6% of the harvestable woodlands within the RMP area, would be available for woodland management.

Alternative C (Partial Wilderness)

Under this alternative, 25,498 acres of the Desatoya Mountains WSA would be recommended suitable for wilderness designation and 25,764 acres would be recommended non-suitable for wilderness designation.

The WSA's most spectacular scenery, naturalness and opportunities for primitive recreation and solitude would be retained. On the 25,764 acres not designated wilderness, there would be a reduction of naturalness and opportunities for solitude in the long-term due to mineral exploration activities, increased ORV use, maintenance of existing range improvements and harvest of woodland products. Wilderness values in both areas would be enhanced slightly as a result of better distribution of livestock use.

Motorized recreational use would be eliminated on the 25,498 acres designated wilderness and 20 visitor days would be foregone annually. The impacts of shifting this use to other public lands would be negligible. On the cherrystemmed roads which would remain open and the 25,764 acres of the WSA not designated as wilderness, motorized recreational use would continue to increase to approximately 570 visitor days annually in the long-term.

Exploration for energy and mineral resources on 25,498 acres recommended suitable for wilderness designation would be foregone. There would be no impact on exploration activities or development of mineral and energy resources on the 25,764 acres recommended nonsuitable.

Woodland products availability would be reduced by approximately 3 percent within the Lahontan RMP Area. Ninety-seven percent of the manageable woodlands within the RMP area would remain available for harvest. About 1,040 acres of productive woodland would not be available for firewood cutting or commercial harvest of pine nuts.

JOB PEAK WSA (NV-030-127)

Proposed Action (Alternative D - No Wilderness)

Under the Proposed Action, the 90,209 acre Job Peak WSA would be recommended nonsuitable for wilderness designation.

On the 90,209 acres of the WSA, there would be a reduction of the area's naturalness and opportunities for solitude in the long-term, primarily because of energy and mineral exploration and development activities and continued and increasing recreational ORV use. There would be negligible impacts to wilderness values due to the construction and maintenance of range facilities. Wilderness values would be enhanced slightly due to a redistribution of livestock use.

Recreational ORV use levels would increase to approximately 580 visitor days per year in the foreseeable future. There would be no impact on motorized recreation use.

Energy and mineral resources would be available for exploration and development. There would be no impact on the exploration for, or development of, mineral and energy resources. Development of a five megawatt geothermal power plant is anticipated.

Alternative A (All Wilderness)

Under Alternative A, the entire 90,209 acres of the Job Peak WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation.

The wilderness values of naturalness and opportunities for solitude would be enhanced slightly because of the elimination of approximately 70 visitor days of recreational ORV use and the redistribution

of livestock use. The construction of additional range improvements would have a negligible effect upon the perceived naturalness of the area.

Recreational ORV use would be foregone on the 90,209 acres designated wilderness and 100 visitor days would be foregone annually. The impacts of shifting this use to other public lands would be negligible.

Exploration for mineral and energy resources would be foregone. This includes 85,260 acres with moderate potential for metallic minerals, and 39,000 acres with high and 51,200 acres with moderate potential for geothermal resources. Development of a five megawatt geothermal power plant would be foregone.

Alternative B (Partial Wilderness)

Under this alternative, 37,477 acres of the Job Peak WSA would be recommended suitable for wilderness designation and 52,732 acres would be recommended unsuitable for wilderness designation.

The area's best scenery, natural areas and opportunities for primitive recreation and solitude would be retained. Lands within the WSA which have more moderate wilderness values also would be protected. On the 52,732 acres not designated wilderness, there would be a reduction of wilderness values, including naturalness and opportunities for solitude, in the long-term. Wilderness values would be enhanced slightly due to the redistribution of livestock use. Construction and maintenance of additional range improvements would have a negligible impact on the apparent naturalness of the area.

Motorized recreational use would be eliminated on the 37,477 acres designated wilderness and 60 visitor days would be foregone annually. The impacts of shifting this use to other public lands would be negligible. On the 52,732 acres of the WSA not designated as wilderness, motorized recreational use would continue to increase to approximately 460 visitor days annually in the long-term.

Exploration for energy and mineral resources on 37,477 acres recommended suitable for wilderness designation would be foregone. There would be no impact on exploration activities or development of mineral and energy resources on the 52,732 acres recommended unsuitable. It is anticipated that a five megawatt geothermal power plant would be developed.

Alternative C (Partial Wilderness)

Under this alternative, 20,522 acres of the Job Peak WSA would be recommended suitable for wilderness designation and 69,687 acres would be recommended unsuitable for wilderness designation.

The area's best scenery, natural areas and opportunities for primitive recreation and solitude would be retained. Wilderness values would be enhanced slightly as a result of the redistribution of livestock use. Construction and maintenance of additional range improvements would have a negligible impact on the apparent naturalness of the area. On the 69,687 acres not designated wilderness, there would be a reduction of wilderness values, including naturalness and opportunities for solitude, in the long-term.

Motorized recreational use would be eliminated on the 20,522 acres designated wilderness and 20 visitor days would be foregone annually. The impacts of shifting this use to other public lands would be negligible. On the 69,687 acres of the WSA not designated as wilderness, motorized recreational use would continue to increase to approximately 540 visitor days annually in the long-term.

Exploration for energy and mineral resources on 20,522 acres recommended suitable for wilderness designation would be foregone. There would be no impact on exploration activities or development of mineral and energy resources on the 69,687 acres recommended nonsuitable. It is anticipated that a five megawatt geothermal power plant would be developed.

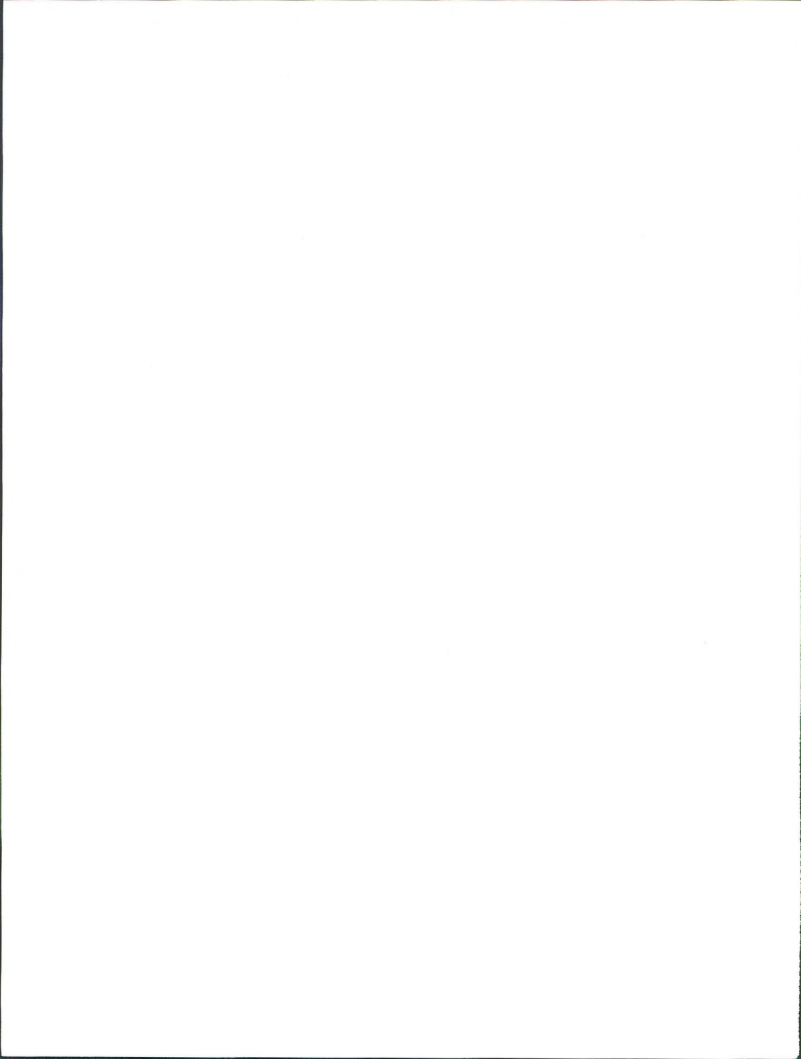


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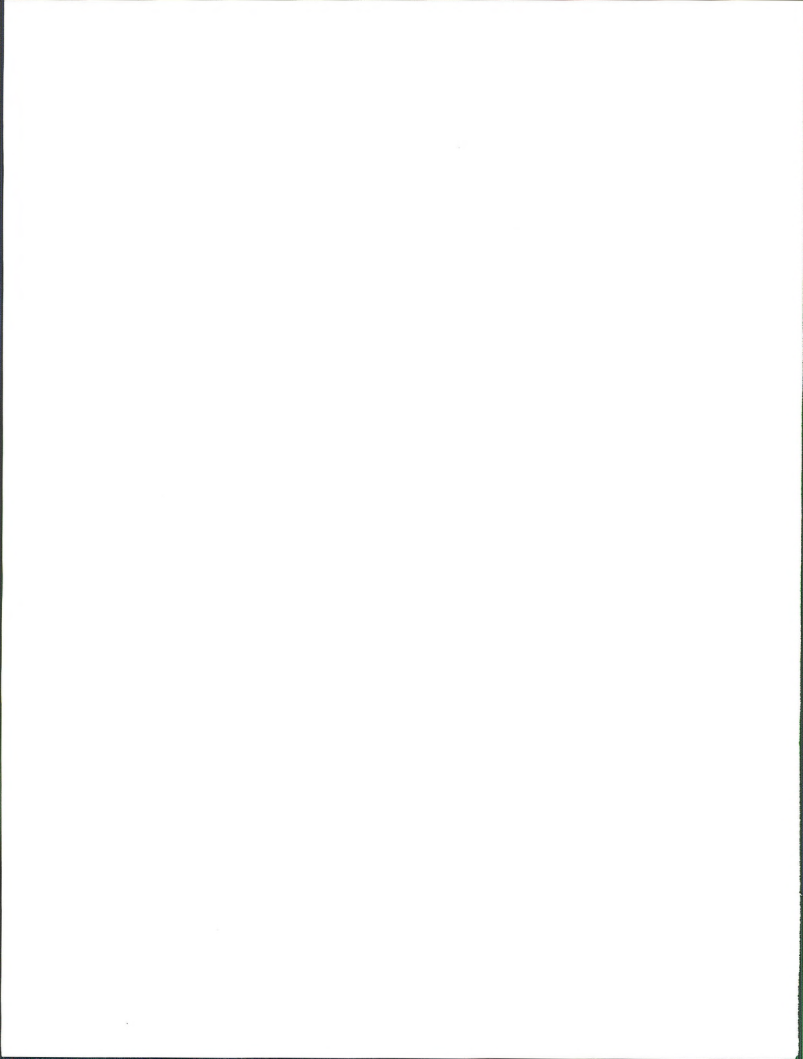


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- 2-13 Alternative C (Partial Wilderness)

Clan Alpine Mountains WSA

- 3-1 Existing Situation
- 3-2 Mining Claims and Mineral Leases
- 3-3 Mineral Potential
- 3-4 Woodland
- 3-5 Wildlife Habitat

Stillwater Range WSA

- 3-6 Existing Situation
- 3-7 Mining Claims and Mineral Leases
- 3-8 Mineral Potential
- 3-9 Woodland
- 3-10 Wildlife Habitat

Desatoya Mountains WSA

- 3-11 Existing Situation
- 3-12 Mining Claims and Mineral Leases
- 3-13 Mineral Potential
- 3-14 Woodland
- 3-15 Wildlife Habitat

Job Peak WSA

- 3-16 Existing Situation
- 3-17 Mining Claims and Mineral Leases
- 3-18 Mineral Potential
- 3-19 Woodland
- 3-20 Wildlife Habitat



CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION AND PLANNING PROCESS



CHAPTER 1

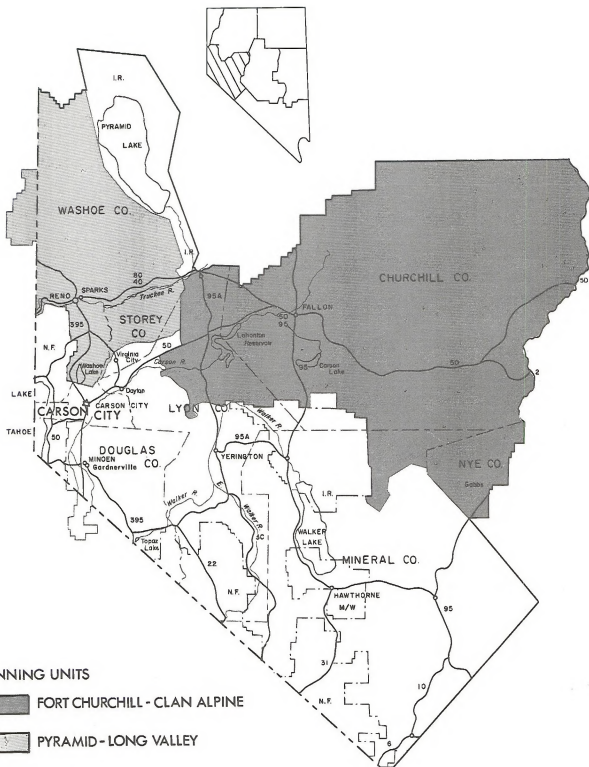
INTRODUCTION AND PLANNING PROCESS

This Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) considers the possible consequences of designating or not designating as wilderness all or portions of four wilderness study areas (WSAs) in the Lahontan Resource Area in the Bureau of Land Management's Carson City District, Nevada. The analysis evolves from a requirement included by Congress in Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) directing the Secretary of the Interior and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to review roadless areas of 5,000 acres or more having wilderness characteristics and by 1991 to recommend to the President the suitability of such areas for preservation as wilderness. In determining wilderness values, the law directs the Bureau to use the criteria given by Congress in the Wilderness Act of 1964. In Section 2(c) of the Act, Congress states that wilderness is essentially an area of undeveloped Federal land in a natural condition, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. The area may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

LOCATION

Located in west-central Nevada, the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Carson City District administers approximately 5.3 million acres of public lands. The district's Lahontan Resource Area is responsible for administration of 2.8 million acres in four planning units: Pyramid, Long Valley, Fort Churchill and Clan Alpine. Land use decisions for the roughly 370,000 acres in the Pyramid and Long Valley units were analyzed as part of the Reno Management Framework Plan and grazing EIS. There were no wilderness study areas (WSAs) in either of these two units. Land use decisions for the remaining 2.4 million acres in the Fort Churchill and Clan Alpine planning units were analyzed in the Lahontan Resource Management Plan (RMP), as were draft wilderness alternatives and recommendations. This wilderness EIS presents final wilderness recommendations for these two planning units.

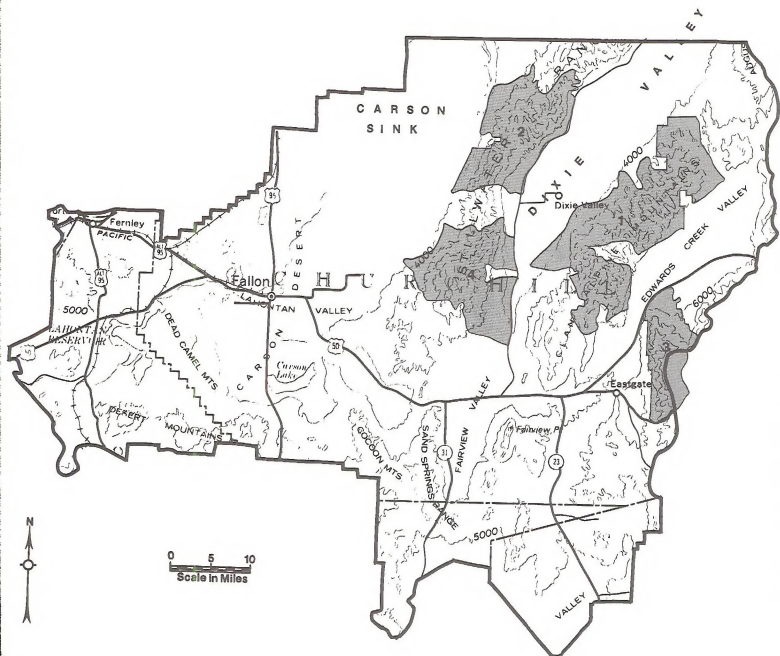
Most of the lands within the Fort Churchill and Clan Alpine planning units are located in Churchill County, although portions of Lyon, Mineral, Nye and Storey counties also are located in these units. The area includes three principal towns: Fallon, Fernley and Gabbs. All four wilderness study areas are located in the eastern half of Churchill County. About 9,000 acres of the Desatoya Mountains WSA lie in Lander County and are being studied under a cooperative arrangement with the Battle Mountain District. (See Maps 1-1 and 1-2).



CARSON CITY DISTRICT

Lahontan Resource Management Planning Area

1. CLAN ALPINE RANGE NV-030-102
2. STILL WATER RANGE NV-030-104
3. DESATOYA MOUNTAINS NV-030-110
4. JOB PEAK NV-030-127



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

**CARSON CITY DISTRICT
LAHONTAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN AREA
WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS**

The four WSAs being studied are listed in Table 1-1 below:

TABLE 1-1
LIST OF WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

<u>WSA Name</u>	<u>WSA Number</u>	<u>Acreage</u>
Clan Alpine Mountains	NV-030-102	196,128
Stillwater Range	NV-030-104	94,607
Desatoya Mountains	NV-030-110/060-288	51,262
Job Peak	NV-030-127	90,209

The total acreage contained in all four units is 432,206 acres. This equals 15.3% of the total public land acreage in the Resource Area.

PURPOSE AND NEED OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to manage and preserve the wilderness characteristics on 111,511 BLM acres (including 51 acres outside one WSA boundary) in portions of the Clan Alpine Mountains Wilderness Study Area (WSA) and the Desatoya Mountains WSA, and continue to manage the remaining 135,930 acres in these two WSAs and 184,816 acres in two other WSAs in the Lahontan Resource Area for uses other than wilderness.

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) mandates BLM to manage the public lands and their resources under the principles of multiple use and sustained yield. Wilderness values are identified as part of the spectrum of multiple land use values to be considered in BLM inventory, planning, and management. Section 603 of FLPMA requires a wilderness review of BLM roadless areas of 5,000 or more acres and roadless islands. The BLM inventory process identified wilderness study areas which have the mandatory wilderness characteristics (size; naturalness; solitude and/or primitive recreation opportunities). Suitable or unsuitable wilderness recommendations for each WSA will be presented to the President by the Secretary of the Interior. The President will then make recommendations to the Congress of the United States. Areas can be designated wilderness only by an act of the Congress. If designated as wilderness, an area would be managed in accordance with the Wilderness Act of 1964 and the BLM Wilderness Management Policy (1981).

THE WILDERNESS REVIEW PROCESS AND ITS INTEGRATION WITH PLANNING

To accomplish the mandate of Section 603 of FLPMA, the BLM developed a wilderness review process containing three phases: inventory, study and reporting.

The inventory phase of this process, initiated in 1978, involved examining the public lands to determine and locate the existence of areas containing wilderness characteristics that met the criteria established in the Wilderness Act. Areas clearly lacking wilderness characteristics were sorted out from

lands that might have those characteristics. This intensive inventory was then followed by a 90-day public review period, after which final WSAs were identified.

This inventory process and a general description of all of Nevada's WSAs are given in Wilderness Study Area Decisions: Nevada BLM Intensive Wilderness Inventory (1980). A copy of this publication is available at any BLM office.

The second step in the review process was to integrate wilderness evaluation into the BLM Planning System (43 CFR 1600), which, in this case, involved development of the Lahontan Resource Management Plan (RMP). The wilderness study criteria and quality standards contained in the BLM's Wilderness Study Policy: Policies, Criteria and Guidelines for Conducting Wilderness Studies on Public Lands (47 FR 5098-5122) were applied to each WSA.

In addition to the above referenced criteria and standards, issues for discussion were identified through public comment and internal scoping, conflicts were analyzed, and alternatives were developed. See page 1-8 for a discussion of which alternatives were selected and why. These alternatives are the basis for analysis of environmental consequences and resource tradeoffs.

Following public review of the draft environmental impact statement, the Carson City District prepared a final environmental impact statement. These recommendations are reviewed by the BLM Director and the Secretary of the Interior, who will make a recommendation to the President. The President has up to two years to make his final recommendation to Congress, which has sole authority to designate an area as wilderness. Until Congress decides whether or not to designate an area as wilderness, the WSAs will be managed in accordance with the Bureau's Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review.

SCOPING

The Council on Environmental Quality Regulations Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR Part 1501.7) and the BLM planning regulations (43 CFR 1610.4-1) require an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action. Scoping determines in depth the scope and the significant issues to be analyzed in the EIS, and identifies and eliminates from detailed study insignificant issues or issues addressed in earlier environmental reviews. Scoping thus reduces the length of the EIS and emphasizes the real alternatives and impacts.

During this process, the scope and importance of issues related to the proposed action and alternatives were identified. Information obtained during the scoping process was one of the sources used to determine which impact topics would be addressed in detail in this EIS. Additional purposes of the scoping process are to inform affected Federal, State, and local agencies and other interested parties about the proposed project, and to identify existing environmental reports and information related to the impact assessment.

The scoping process involved discussions with the public, resource specialists and managers of BLM and other relevant agencies. Written comments were received and compiled as a result of Federal Register announcements, news releases, mailings, and articles about the proposal. Comments were also solicited during public meetings. In addition, the initial scoping effort has been followed by an effort to continue agency and public involvement throughout the development of this EIS. Comments on the draft EIS were carefully considered in the selection of issues for the final EIS. This section outlines the steps taken by BLM for the scoping and public involvement process for the EIS.

SCOPING PROCESS

The public involvement in the wilderness program began in the summer of 1978 and continues. The decision to initiate a Resource Management Plan including consideration of Wilderness Study Areas and to prepare an EIS on the Lahontan Resource Area was published in the Federal Register in July, 1981 and filed with the Nevada State Clearinghouse.

The scoping process for the RMP/EIS involved several phases, extending from the fall of 1978 to January 1984:

- Initial wilderness inventory and public comment period - 1978-1979.
- Intensive wilderness inventory and public comment period - 1979-1980.
- Notice of Intent to conduct resource management planning and to prepare an EIS - July 1981.
- Scoping letter mailed to over 500 organizations, agencies and individuals on the Carson City District's mailing list that had indicated an interest in wilderness. This letter explained the planning process and asked for identification of issues for the Lahontan RMP - July 1981.
- Public meetings conducted on July 27 and 28, 1981, in Carson City and Fallon, to identify significant issues to be addressed in the planning process.
- Notice of Intent to develop RMP alternatives - May 1983.
- Draft RMP/EIS and/or summary sent to all agencies, organizations and individuals who had indicated an interest in planning or the wilderness process - October 1983.

IDENTIFICATION OF ISSUES

During the scoping process three issues were identified for detailed analysis in the Lahontan RMP/EIS. Following public comment on the draft RMP/EIS two additional issues were identified and subsequently analyzed in a Draft Supplement to the RMP/EIS.

Several topics related to the issue of environmental impacts of wilderness designation were identified by the BLM staff, by the public during formal scoping comment periods, and from comments on the draft RMP/EIS by the public and by Federal, State and local agencies. After these topics were identified they were assessed to determine if they would be selected for detailed analysis in this EIS.

The following discussion identifies the issues that are to be analyzed in detail in this EIS. In addition, the reasons are given for setting aside the remaining issues that are not included in the EIS for further consideration. Those issues common to all four WSAs are listed first. This is followed by a listing and discussion of an issue which relates to two individual WSAs.

Issues to be analyzed in the EIS for each of the four WSAs are:

1. Impacts on Wilderness Values

The wilderness values of naturalness, opportunities for solitude, opportunities for primitive recreation, and various special features of the WSA could benefit from wilderness designation. The same values may be adversely affected by uses and actions that would occur should the WSA not be designated wilderness. Impacts on wilderness values is an issue for analysis in the EIS.

2. Impacts on Motorized Recreation Use

Wilderness designation would eliminate the use of recreational off-road vehicles (ORVs) in the WSA. Eliminating this use could affect the availability of ORV related recreation opportunities, particularly hunting, and shift use currently occurring in the WSAs to adjacent lands. The impact of wilderness designation on motorized recreation use in the WSAs is an issue for analysis in the EIS.

3. Impacts on Development of Mineral/Energy Resources

Wilderness designation could affect the development of potential and known mineral and energy resources by withdrawing designated lands from mineral entry. Development of existing mineral and energy resources within designated wilderness areas could be affected by wilderness management restrictions. The impact of wilderness designation on the development of potential and known mineral/energy resources is an issue for analysis in the EIS.

In addition to the issues listed above, one additional issue was identified which relates to only two of the four WSAs. This issue will be addressed in the discussions on those study areas identified below. This issue is:

4. Impacts on Woodland Products Availability

Woodlands capable of being managed for fuelwood, commercial pine nut harvest and Christmas tree sales exist within the Clan Alpine Mountains and Desatoya Mountains WSAs. Wilderness designation could impact the availability of these products within the Lahontan Resource Area. The impact of wilderness designation on the utilization of woodland products will be a topic for analysis in the discussion of the Clan Alpine Mountains and Desatoya Mountains WSAs in the EIS.

The following issues were identified in scoping but were not selected for detailed analysis in this EIS. The reasons for setting each of the issues aside are discussed below.

1. Impacts on Wildlife

Several comments on the draft RMP/EIS expressed a general concern for wildlife. Specific issues were not identified, however, it was stated that wilderness designation would afford additional protection to wildlife habitat, particularly riparian areas and that of recently reintroduced desert bighorn sheep. An issue dealing with this subject was considered but not included in the EIS since the RMP already makes provisions for protection of bighorn sheep habitat and no specific impacts on riparian areas, populations or the habitat of any other species were identified. Based on the projection of development in the four WSAs, little change in wildlife populations or habitat is anticipated with wilderness designation or nondesignation. This includes the trout fishery in Horse Creek (Clan Alpine Mountains WSA) as well as other riparian areas.

2. Impact on Air Quality

Development of a 15-20 megawatt geothermal power plant is anticipated under Alternatives B and D for the Stillwater Range WSA. Development of a 5 megawatt geothermal power plant is anticipated under Alternatives B, C and D for the Job Peak WSA. Concerns were raised regarding the potential impacts on air quality arising from these developments. Geothermal energy generally is recognized as one of the cleanest methods of power production. Water vapor, carbon dioxide and, possibly, a small amount of hydrogen sulfide will be released into the atmosphere. A minor amount of particulate matter may be generated by vehicular traffic associated with these facilities. The prevailing westerly winds will dissipate all of these rapidly and there will be a negligible impact on air quality. Therefore, this issue was dropped from further analysis in the EIS.

3. Impact on Air Quality Classification

Concerns were raised regarding the interaction between wilderness designation and air quality classification. The Wilderness Management Policy states that BLM will manage all wilderness areas to comply with the existing air quality classification for that specific area, so wilderness designation or nondesignation would not cause the air quality classification to change. Therefore, this issue was dropped from further analysis in the EIS.

4. Impact on Cultural Resources

Inventories and consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer during scoping determined that no cultural sites that would be eligible for nomination for listing on the National Register of Historic Places are known to exist within any of the WSAs. The cultural sites that do exist in the areas are lithic scatters, petroglyphs and rock overhangs which would be protected with or without wilderness designation. Since the significance of the cultural sites within the WSAs is low, the issue of impact to cultural resources from wilderness designation was dropped from further analysis.

5. Impacts on Endangered Species

Wildlife and vegetation inventories and consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service did not identify any threatened or endangered species in the WSAs. Therefore, this issue was dropped from further consideration.

6. Impacts on Livestock Grazing and Range Management

Concerns were raised that livestock operators could be required to modify their operations within designated wilderness areas in a manner that would have significant adverse impact on livestock grazing. This issue was considered but dropped because the BLM's Wilderness Management Policy provides for the continued use of wilderness areas for livestock operations at historic levels. Although the management practices of livestock operators in the WSAs would be more closely regulated, they would continue as they did prior to wilderness designations subject to reasonable regulations. Proposed range improvements are small scale and similar to existing improvements. The Wilderness Management Policy allows these types of improvements in order to continue the existing livestock program. While this issue has been dropped from analysis, a brief description of the planned livestock program has been included because this is a significant non-conforming use which is specifically allowed by Congress.

7. Impacts on Wild Horse Management

Some concern was expressed during scoping regarding the Bureau's ability to manage wild horse populations in designated wilderness areas. Although there may be slightly increased costs associated with research studies, round-ups and removal of excess horses from the range, wild horses will continue to be managed according to the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971. Herd Management Area Plans (HMAPs) will be developed in wilderness areas containing wild horses. The Wilderness Management Policy specifically allows for the management of viable herds of wild horses and provides for the use of motorized equipment and aircraft for management purposes on a case by case basis with State Director approval. Therefore, impacts on wild horse management are not considered for detailed analysis in this EIS.

8. Impacts of Wilderness Designation on U.S. Navy Training Operations

The Department of the Navy, in its comments on the draft RMP/EIS, raised the issue of potential impacts of wilderness designation to the training mission and air operations being conducted by the Fallon Naval Air Station (NAS). No specific concerns or examples of potential impacts were offered other than to state that permission to conduct overflights of designated wilderness areas "...is discretionary with the Department of Interior and/or may be subject to restriction;...". The Wilderness Act of 1964 provides for the continued use of aircraft where it is already established and the Bureau's Wilderness Management Policy, while discouraging low overflight of designated wilderness, does not prohibit it. Where such overflights may be a problem, wilderness management plans are to provide for liaison with proper military authorities and the Federal Aviation Administration. A review of the Navy's recent EIS on its Supersonic Operating Area and its plans relating to the Naval Strike Warfare Center revealed no conflicts between planned operations and the Bureau's proposed wilderness designations. No impacts to U.S. Navy air operations are anticipated, therefore this issue is not analyzed in the EIS.

The following issues are not environmental issues, but are program concerns that were frequently identified as issues during scoping:

The WSAs being studied are not what Congress intended to be included in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Some or all of the areas being studied for wilderness designation may not be the kind of area Congress intended to have considered for wilderness. This issue was dropped since it was determined in the inventory stage of the BLM's wilderness review process that all the WSAs being studied meet the minimum standards for wilderness identified by the Congress in the Wilderness Act of 1964 and FLPMA of 1976.

The BLM cannot manage these areas as wilderness. During the scoping process some commenters expressed the opinion that these areas would be difficult to manage as wilderness and that the Bureau was incapable of doing so. This issue was dropped since the wilderness study process determined that the areas recommended suitable for designation as wilderness could be managed as such. In addition, it is Department and Bureau policy that funding and qualified personnel will be provided to effectively manage a designated area as wilderness.

Wilderness designation would impair the conduct of rescue operations. The Churchill County Commissioners raised the concern that efficient rescue operations would be impaired due to the ban on motor vehicles in designated wilderness areas. This issue was not analyzed since both the Wilderness Act of 1964 and the Bureau's Wilderness Management Policy provide for the temporary suspension of the prohibition against the use of motorized vehicles when an emergency arises involving the health and safety of persons in the area.

SELECTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVES

Proposed Action

Development of the Proposed Action is guided by requirements of the Bureau's Planning Regulations, 43 CFR Part 1600. The BLM's Wilderness Study Policy (published February 3, 1982, in the Federal Register) supplements the planning regulations by providing specific factors to be considered during the planning sequence in developing suitability recommendations.

The Proposed Action recommends as suitable for wilderness designation those portions of WSAs with high quality wilderness values. In addition, the Proposed Action would limit conflicts between the wilderness resource and livestock use, recreational ORV use, and development of known or potential geothermal and mineral resources. In this FEIS the Proposed Action corresponds to the Preferred Alternative in the Draft RMP/EIS.

If this alternative were to be implemented, portions of two Wilderness Study areas would be recommended suitable for wilderness designation. The acreages in each WSA recommended suitable and unsuitable for wilderness designation are as follows:

<u>WSA</u>	<u>Acres Suitable</u>	<u>Acres Unsuitable</u>
Clan Alpine Mountains	68,458	127,670
Stillwater Range	0	94,607
Desatoya Mountains (a)	43,053	8,260
Job Peak	0	90,209
TOTAL	111,511	320,746

(a) Includes 51 acres added to original WSA to enhance manageability.

See Table 1-2 for a breakdown, by alternative, of suitable and unsuitable acreages in each WSA.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action Selected for Analysis

The BLM Wilderness Study Policy calls for the formulation and evaluation of alternatives ranging from resource protection to resource production. The alternatives assessed in this EIS include: (1) a No Wilderness alternative for each WSA, (2) an All Wilderness alternative for each WSA, and (3) Partial Wilderness alternatives for each WSA.

To reduce confusion of names of the alternatives used in the draft, the alternatives in this document have been given an alphabetic character. The equivalents are:

Alternative A is used instead of All Wilderness/Resource Protection;

Alternative B is used instead of Mid-Range;

Alternative C is used instead of Commodity Production;

Alternative D is used instead of No Wilderness/No Action.

Alternative D, the No Wilderness alternative, and the No Action alternative as required by the National Environmental Protection Act, are equivalent. Both advocate continuation of management as outlined in the existing Lahontan Resource Area RMP and recommendation of the WSAs as unsuitable for wilderness.

Alternative A, the All Wilderness alternative, represents the maximum possible acreage that could be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation.

Alternative B, the Mid-Range alternative, eliminates those portions of each WSA possessing the lowest wilderness qualities, existing resource conflicts and manageability problems.

Alternative C, the Commodity Production alternative, emphasizes commodity production and use of areas having significant resource development potential.

Alternatives Considered But Dropped From Further Analysis

Stillwater Range WSA (NV-030-104)

A Partial Wilderness alternative considered in the Draft RMP/EIS (Alternative C/Commodity Production alternative) was dropped because it is identical to Alternative D, the No Action/No Wilderness alternative.

A Partial Wilderness alternative suggested during the public comment period on the Draft RMP/EIS by Trans-Pacific Geothermal, Inc, as a means of eliminating most areas of high geothermal potential, was considered but dropped since the concerns raised and the acreage proposed for elimination had already been addressed under the existing Partial Wilderness alternative (Alternative B/Mid-Range) for this WSA.

In a comment letter on the Draft RMP/EIS, the Sierra Club included a map of a proposed Partial Wilderness alternative which would add approximately 10,000 acres along the northwest and southwest boundaries of the Partial Wilderness alternative (Alternative B/Mid-Range) analyzed in the Draft. This alternative was considered but dropped since BLM's wilderness review deleted these areas after thorough review and analysis due to a lack of essential wilderness characteristics.

Job Peak WSA (NV-030-127)

In a comment letter on the Draft RMP/EIS the Sierra Club included a map of a proposed Partial Wilderness alternative which would add approximately 12,000 acres along the southern boundary of one of the two Partial Wilderness alternatives (Alternative B/Mid-Range) analyzed in the Draft. This alternative was considered but dropped since BLM's wilderness review process deleted these areas after thorough review and analysis due to a lack of essential wilderness characteristics.

ACEC Designation

Several comments on the Draft RMP/EIS discussed a need for designation of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) within the Lahontan Resource Area. Although the Draft had not addressed this topic, it was included as an issue in a supplement to the Draft RMP/EIS as a result of these public comments.

BLM staff identified no areas within any of the four WSAs which met the suitability criteria for establishing an ACEC and the only feature nominated by the public and found within any of the WSAs was the Dixie Valley earthquake fault. This fault scarp, extending down the eastern side of both the Stillwater Range WSA and the Job Peak WSA along the natural break between the mountain range and the alluvial fan, was recognized as a special feature of these areas during the wilderness study. No special management attention is required to protect and prevent irreparable damage to this feature though, and the resource does not appear to be jeopardized under current management established in the Lahontan RMP. Therefore, ACEC designation for the Dixie Valley earthquake fault was not considered an alternative for analysis in the EIS.

Additionally, ACEC designation was not considered a substitute designation for wilderness.

TABLE 1-2
ALTERNATIVES BY WSA

WSA/Final EIS Alternative	Draft EIS Alternative	Suitable Acres	Nonsuitable Acres
Clan Alpine Mountains			
Proposed Action/Alternative C (Partial)	Preferred Alternative/Commodity Production	68,458	127,670
Alternative A	All Wilderness/Resource Protection	196,128	0
Alternative D	No Wilderness/No Action	0	196,128
Alternative B (Partial)	Mid-Range	158,504	37,624
Stillwater Range			
Proposed Action/Alternative D	Preferred Alternative/No Wilderness/No Action	0	94,607
Alternative A	All Wilderness/Resource Protection	94,607	0
Alternative B (Partial)	Mid-Range	29,797	64,810
Desatoya Mountains			
Proposed Action/Alternative B (Partial)	Preferred Alternative/Mid-Range	43,053(a)	8,260
Alternative A	All Wilderness/Resource Protection	51,313(a)	0
Alternative D	No Wilderness/No Action	0	51,262
Alternative C (Partial)	Commodity Production	25,498	25,764
Job Peak			
Proposed Action/Alternative D	Preferred Alternative/No Wilderness/No Action	0	90,209
Alternative A	All Wilderness/Resource Protection	90,209	0
Alternative B (Partial)	Mid-Range	37,477	52,732
Alternative C (Partial)	Commodity Production	20,522	69,687

(a) Includes 51 acres added to original WSA to enhance manageability.

CHAPTER TWO

PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES



CHAPTER 2

PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

Since the pattern of future actions within the WSAs cannot be predicted with certainty, assumptions were made to allow the analysis of impacts under the Proposed Action and alternatives. These assumptions are the basis of the impacts identified in this EIS. They are not management plans or proposals, but represent feasible patterns of activities which could occur under the alternatives analyzed.

CLAN ALPINE MOUNTAINS WSA (NV-030-102)

Proposed Action (Alternative C - Partial Wilderness): 68,458 Acres Recommended
for Wilderness
Designation
127,670 Acres
Non-Wilderness

Under the Proposed Action, 68,458 acres would be designated wilderness. This portion of the WSA would be managed to preserve wilderness values and motorized recreation use would be prohibited. The remaining 127,670 acres would be managed for multiple use under the existing Lahontan Resource Area RMP (See Map 2-1).

• Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Use

The 68,458 acre parcel recommended as suitable for wilderness designation would be closed to recreational ORV use. Cherrystem roads extend into the area from the northern boundary and from the intrusive peninsula of non-WSA land around Railroad Ridge. Approximately six miles of existing vehicle routes would be closed. These closures would affect primarily deer and chukar hunters.

The remaining 127,670 acres would be open to motorized vehicle use, including 31 miles of roads and 33 miles of vehicle ways. Ten miles of cherrystem roads within the designated portion of the WSA also would remain open. Projection estimates indicate that recreational ORV use would increase by about 500 visitor days.

• Other Recreation

The Clan Alpine Mountains WSA would be open for non-motorized recreation activities. These include backpacking, day hiking, camping, hunting, horseback riding and nature study. Non-motorized use is expected to increase slowly on the 127,670 acres recommended unsuitable for wilderness designation. On the 68,458 acre parcel recommended suitable,

it is anticipated that use will increase somewhat more rapidly. Non-motorized use occurs primarily in the canyons and along the ridgetop. No recreation facilities or trails exist in the WSA. Development of recreation facilities is not anticipated.

Mineral Resource Actions

Subject to valid existing rights, the 68,458 acres of the Clan Alpine Mountains WSA recommended suitable under the Proposed Action would be withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the mining and mineral leasing laws. Approximately 580 acres of the area recommended suitable are covered by mining claims. These claims and any other mining claims that exist at the time of designation would be examined to determine validity when plans of operation are submitted. No plans of operation currently are anticipated due to the lack of a mineral discovery on any of these claims. No other mineral development is anticipated in the suitable portion of the WSA.

A total of approximately 360 acres is expected to be disturbed as a result of mineral and energy exploration and development activities on the 127,670 acres recommended unsuitable.

Exploration for metallic minerals will continue to occur. Surface disturbing activities covering about 300 acres will be concentrated around the Bernice/Hoyt Canyon, Dyer Canyon, Tungsten Mountain, and Florence Canyon areas. An estimated 90 miles of new road and 800 drill pads would be constructed in this part of the WSA in the foreseeable future.

One small surface gold and silver mine is expected to be developed in one of the aforementioned canyons outside of the suitable portion of the WSA. The development would consist of an open pit mine, waste dump, tailings pond, mill site and approximately two miles of access road. Total disturbance is expected to be about 50 acres.

No development of nonmetallic minerals is anticipated because of a low favorability for occurrence. Development of saleable mineral resources within the WSA is not anticipated since the area is remote and could not compete with those resources located closer to market.

Geophysical exploration and drilling for geothermal energy is anticipated to occur on portions of the 5,530 acres under lease in the unsuitable part of the WSA. An area on the east central boundary would also be explored. Geophysical lines would involve some cross country travel. Exploration drilling would involve approximately 4 wells and 5 miles of road, disturbing about 10 acres of land. No geothermal development is anticipated.

Oil and gas leases occupy about 24,300 acres within the area recommended suitable, however, the entire WSA is classified as having a low potential for the occurrence of oil and gas and it is anticipated that no exploration or development will occur.

- Livestock Grazing and Range Management Actions

The Clan Alpine Mountains WSA would continue to be managed for 5,334 AUMs of livestock grazing use on portions of three allotments. Allotment Management Plans (AMPs) are proposed for the Dixie Valley and Clan Alpine allotments within the next two years. In the parcel recommended suitable for wilderness designation one well, three and one-quarter miles of pipeline, eight developed springs and four miles of barbed wire fence would be maintained. With the exception of two springs which are currently maintained by horseback, all other improvements would be maintained on an annual basis by motorized vehicles utilizing cherrystem roads located outside the WSA. Four and one-half miles of gap fence would be constructed in the suitable portion to enhance distribution of livestock use and improve the condition of vegetative communities. Existing cherrystemmed roads would be utilized, where feasible, for access during construction. Otherwise, materials would be packed in by horseback. With the construction of these improvements it may be possible to increase the number of AUMs within the area recommended suitable by about seven percent. This new gap fencing would be checked and maintained by horseback yearly and supplemented by limited use of motorized vehicles along cherrystemmed roads. The use of motorized vehicles within the wilderness area for normal livestock management activities would be restricted, but such use could be approved for maintenance or other activities.

Range improvements in the nonsuitable portion would be maintained by vehicle, on foot or by horseback, generally on an annual basis. Maintenance of the one reservoir in this parcel would require the use of heavy equipment every 10-15 years.

- Woodland Products Management Actions

Approximately 2,360 acres of productive pinyon-juniper woodland in the central portion of the area recommended suitable for designation, or about 6% of the manageable woodlands in the RMP area, would be unavailable for firewood cutting or commercial harvest of pine nuts. About 8,490 acres of productive woodland in the nonsuitable portion of the WSA would remain available for intensive management.

Alternative A (All Wilderness): 196,128 Acres Recommended for
Wilderness Designation
0 Acres Non-Wilderness

All 196,128 acres in the Clan Alpine Mountains WSA would be designated as wilderness. Under this alternative motorized recreation use would be prohibited. Livestock use would continue to be allotted at current use levels. Discretionary management actions would be permitted only to preserve wilderness values (See Map 2-2).

- Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Use

Wilderness designation would prohibit all motorized recreation use within the 196,128 acres of the WSA. Approximately 300 visitor days of motorized recreation use would be eliminated and 39 miles of existing primitive vehicle routes would be closed to recreational vehicle use. There still would be about 620 visitor days of motorized recreational use along the 41 miles of cherrystemmed roads. In both cases, use is primarily associated with vehicle access for hunting and firewood collecting. Projection estimates indicate that recreational ORV use would increase to 1150 visitor days per year in the foreseeable future, all occurring along cherrystemmed roads.

- Other Recreation

The Clan Alpine Mountains WSA would be open for non-motorized recreation activities. These include day hiking, backpacking, camping, hunting, horseback riding and nature study. Current non-motorized use is estimated at about 1100 visitor days per year. With designation as wilderness, it is anticipated that use would increase slowly to a total of 3050 visitor days per year in the foreseeable future. No recreation facilities or trails exist in the WSA and no development of any is planned.

- Mineral Resource Actions

Subject to valid existing rights, the entire Clan Alpine Mountains WSA would be withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the mining and mineral leasing laws. Approximately 9,020 acres of the WSA are covered by mining claims. These claims and any other mineral claims that exist at the time of designation would be examined to determine validity when plans of operation are submitted. No plans of operation currently are anticipated due to the lack of a mineral discovery on any existing claims.

No other mineral development of any mining claims currently existing in the WSA is anticipated. Additional mineral exploration activities would be foregone. Geothermal and oil and gas resource exploration within the WSA would be foregone.

- Livestock Grazing and Range Management Actions

The Clan Alpine Mountains WSA would continue to be managed for 5,334 AUMs of livestock grazing use on portions of three allotments. Allotment Management Plans (AMPs) are proposed for the Dixie Valley and Clan Alpine allotments within the next two years. One reservoir, one well, three and one-quarter miles of pipeline, thirteen developed springs and nine miles of barbed wire fence would be maintained. Eleven miles of gap fence would be constructed to enhance distribution of livestock use and improve the condition of vegetative communities. Existing cherrystemmed roads would be utilized, where feasible, for access during construction. Otherwise,

materials would be packed in by horseback. With the construction of these improvements it may be possible to increase the number of AUMs within the WSA by approximately seven percent.

The reservoir will require heavy maintenance every 10 to 15 years and will require two days of earthwork using tracked vehicles or a front-end loader. The majority of all other improvements are located along cherry-stemmed roads outside the WSA and would be maintained by motorized vehicles. Spring developments and fences not near a cherry-stemmed road would be checked yearly either on foot or by horseback. The use of motorized vehicles within the wilderness area for normal livestock management activities would be restricted, but such use could be approved for maintenance or other activities.

- Woodland Products Management Actions

Approximately 10,850 acres of productive pinyon-juniper woodland along cherry-stem roads around the periphery of the WSA would be unavailable for firewood and Christmas tree cutting or commercial harvest of pine nuts. This represents about 29% of the manageable woodlands within the RMP area.

Alternative D (No Wilderness):

0 Acres Recommended for
Wilderness Designation
196,128 Acres Non-Wilderness

None of the 196,128 acres in the Clan Alpine Mountains WSA would be designated as wilderness. The area would be managed for multiple use under the guidance of the Lahontan Resource Area RMP.

- Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Use

The entire 196,128 acres within the WSA would be open to motorized recreation use. In addition to the 41 miles of existing roads, 39 miles of existing primitive vehicle routes would remain open. Approximately 920 visitor days of motorized vehicle use occurs annually within the WSA at the present time. This use is expected to increase to 1610 visitor days per year in the foreseeable future.

- Other Recreation

The Clan Alpine Mountains WSA would be managed for other recreation activities in addition to recreational ORV use. These activities include day hiking, camping, hunting, horseback riding and nature study. Current use is estimated at about 1100 visitor days per year within the WSA and is expected to increase to 1800 visitor days annually in the foreseeable future. No recreation facilities or trails exist in the WSA. Development of facilities or trails is not anticipated.

• Mineral Resource Actions

The entire 196,128 acres within the WSA would be open to mineral and energy exploration and development with a total of about 360 acres experiencing surface disturbance within the foreseeable future. The WSA is considered to have moderate to high favorability for the occurrence of metallic minerals. No active mines are located within the WSA, however, exploration in the Bernice/Hoyt Canyon area, Dyer Canyon, Tungsten Mountain, and Florence Canyon areas is active. Approximately 9,020 acres within the WSA are covered by mining claims. Plans of operation for development of these claims and any additional claims would be processed in accordance with existing regulations.

Exploration for metallic minerals is expected to occur throughout the WSA although the greatest concentration of surface disturbing activities would be around the canyons mentioned above. The total disturbance in the WSA is expected to be about 300 acres within the foreseeable future with construction of up to 90 miles of new roads and 800 drill pads.

It is expected that exploration would result in the development of at least one small surface gold and silver mine in either the Bernice/Hoyt Canyon area, Dyer Canyon, Tungsten Mountain or Florence Canyon areas. The development would consist of an open pit mine, waste dump, tailings pond, mill site and approximately two miles of access road. The total disturbance in the WSA is expected to be about 50 acres.

Potential for development of nonmetallic minerals is low because of low favorability for occurrence. Potential for development of saleable minerals is low because the area is remote and could not compete with resources located closer to market.

Geophysical exploration and drilling for geothermal energy is anticipated to occur on portions of the 5,530 acres under lease in the WSA. An area on the east central boundary also would be explored. This would involve some cross-country travel. Exploration drilling would result in approximately 4 wells and 5 miles of road, disturbing about 10 acres of land. No geothermal development is anticipated.

Oil and gas leases occupy 118,030 acres within the WSA, however, the entire WSA is classified as having a low potential for the occurrence of oil and gas and reliable data indicates that no exploration or development would occur.

• Livestock Grazing and Range Management Actions

The Clan Alpine Mountains WSA would continue to be managed for 5,334 AUMs of livestock grazing use on portions of three allotments. Allotment Management Plans (AMPs) are proposed for the Dixie Valley and Clan Alpine allotments within the next two years. One reservoir, one well, three and one-quarter miles of pipeline, thirteen developed springs and nine miles of barbed wire fence would be maintained by vehicle, on foot or by horseback. Reservoir maintenance would require the use of heavy equipment

every 10 to 15 years. Other developments normally require annual maintenance. Eleven miles of gap fence would be constructed to enhance distribution of livestock use and improve the condition of vegetative communities. With the construction of these improvements, it may be possible to increase the number of AUMs in the WSA by approximately seven percent.

- Woodland Products Management Actions

Approximately 10,850 acres of productive pinyon-juniper woodland along cherrystem roads around the periphery of the WSA would be available for firewood and Christmas tree cutting or commercial harvest of pine nuts. This represents about 29% of the manageable woodlands within the RMP area.

Alternative B (Partial Wilderness): 158,504 Acres Recommended for Wilderness Designation
37,624 Acres Non-Wilderness

A portion of the Clan Alpine Mountains WSA, 158,504 acres, would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation. This acreage would be managed to preserve wilderness values and motorized recreation use would be prohibited. The remaining 37,624 acres would be managed for multiple use under the existing Lahontan Resource Area RMP (See Map 2-3).

- Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Use

The 158,504 acre parcel recommended as suitable for wilderness designation would be closed to recreational ORV use. Cherrystem roads extend into the area from both the western and eastern boundaries as well as from the intrusive peninsula of non-WSA land around Railroad Ridge. Approximately eighteen miles of existing vehicle routes would be closed eliminating 150 visitor days per year in the designated portion of the WSA. This loss primarily would affect deer and chukar hunters.

The remaining 37,624 acres would be open to motorized vehicle use, including 11 miles of cherrystem roads and 21 miles of vehicle ways. Thirty miles of cherrystem roads within the designated portion of the WSA also would remain open. Projection estimates indicate that recreational ORV use would increase from 770 visitor days to approximately 1380 visitor days per year in the foreseeable future.

- Other Recreation

The Clan Alpine Mountains WSA would be open for non-motorized recreation activities. These include camping, backpacking, day hiking, horseback riding, hunting and nature study. Current non-motorized use is estimated at about 1100 visitor days per year. This is expected to increase slowly with designation as wilderness to a total of 3,050 visitor days per year in the foreseeable future. Non-motorized recreation use occurs primarily in the canyons and along the ridgetop. No recreation facilities or trails exist in the WSA. Development of recreation facilities is not anticipated.

• Mineral Resource Actions

Subject to valid existing rights, the 158,504 acres of the Clan Alpine Mountains WSA recommended suitable would be withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the mineral leasing and mining laws. Approximately 3,580 acres of the area recommended suitable are covered by mining claims. These claims and any other mineral claims that exist at the time of designation would be examined to determine validity when plans of operation are submitted. No plans of operation currently are anticipated due to the lack of a mineral discovery on any of these claims. No other mineral development is anticipated in the suitable portion of the WSA.

In the nonsuitable portion of the WSA, a total of about 140 acres would experience surface disturbing activities within the foreseeable future.

Exploration for metallic minerals is expected to be concentrated around the Dyer Canyon, Tungsten Mountain and Florence Canyon areas, and surface disturbance from this activity in these areas should total approximately 80 acres. These areas largely lie outside the suitable portion of the WSA and the potential for the occurrence of metallic minerals in their vicinity is considered high. An estimated 20 miles of new road and 250 drill pads would be constructed in the nonsuitable portion of the WSA. Development of a small surface gold and silver mine as a result of this exploration is likely to occur resulting in about 50 acres of disturbance associated with an open pit mine, waste dump, tailings pond, mill site and about 2 miles of access road. Barring a valid discovery prior to designation, this mine could not be extended into the suitable area. Metallic mineral resource potential is classified as moderate throughout the remainder of the WSA.

No development of nonmetallic minerals is anticipated because of a low favorability for occurrence. Development of saleable mineral resources within the WSA is not anticipated since the area is remote and could not compete with those resources located closer to market.

Geophysical exploration and drilling for geothermal energy is anticipated to occur on portions of the 5,530 acres under lease in the WSA but outside the area recommended suitable. This would involve some cross-country travel. Exploration drilling would result in approximately 4 wells and 5 miles of road, disturbing about 10 acres of land. No geothermal development is anticipated.

Oil and gas leases occupy about 100,000 acres within the area recommended suitable, however the entire WSA is classified as having a low potential for the occurrence of oil and gas and it is anticipated that no exploration or development will occur.

• Livestock Grazing and Range Management Actions

The Clan Alpine Mountains WSA would continue to be managed for 5,334 AUMs of livestock grazing use on portions of three allotments. Allotment

Management Plans (AMPs) are proposed for the Dixie Valley and Clan Alpine allotments within the next two years. In the parcel recommended suitable for wilderness designation, one reservoir, one well, three and one-quarter miles of pipeline, twelve developed springs and eight miles of barbed wire fence would be maintained. Seven and one-half miles of gap fence would be constructed in the suitable portion to enhance distribution of livestock use and improve the condition of vegetative communities. Existing cherrystemmed roads would be utilized, where feasible, for access during construction. Otherwise, materials would be packed in by horseback. With the construction of these improvements it may be possible to increase the number of AUMs within the area recommended suitable by slightly less than seven percent.

The reservoir will require heavy maintenance every 10 to 15 years and will require two days of earthwork using tracked vehicles or a front-end loader. The majority of all other improvements are located along cherrystemmed roads and would be maintained by motorized vehicles. Spring developments and fences not near a cherrystemmed road would be checked yearly either on foot or by horseback. The use of motorized vehicles within the wilderness area for normal livestock management activities would be restricted, but such use could be approved for maintenance or other activities. Range improvements in the nonsuitable portion would be maintained by vehicle, on foot or by horseback, generally on an annual basis.

• Woodland Products Management Actions

About 7,100 acres of productive pinyon-juniper woodland along cherrystem roads around the periphery of the area recommended suitable for designation would be unavailable for firewood and Christmas tree cutting or commercial harvest of pine nuts. This represents about 19% of the manageable woodlands within the RMP area.

STILLWATER RANGE WSA (NV-030-104)

Proposed Action (Alternative D - No Wilderness): 0 Acres Recommended for
Wilderness Designation
94,607 Acres Non-Wilderness

None of the 94,607 acres in the Stillwater Range WSA would be designated as wilderness. The area would be managed for multiple-use under the guidance of the Lahontan Resource Area RMP (See Map 2-4).

- Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Use

The entire 94,607 acres within the WSA would be open to motorized recreation use. In addition to the 27.5 miles of existing roads, 21.5 miles of existing primitive vehicle routes would remain open. Approximately 300 visitor days of motorized vehicle use occurs annually within the WSA at the present time. This use is expected to increase to 500 visitor days per year in the foreseeable future.

- Other Recreation

The Stillwater Range WSA would be managed for other recreation activities in addition to recreational ORV use. These activities include day hiking, camping, horseback riding and hunting. Current use is estimated at about 225 visitor days per year within the WSA and is expected to increase to 300 visitor days annually in the foreseeable future. No recreation facilities or trails exist in the WSA. Development of facilities or trails is not anticipated.

- Mineral Resource Actions

The entire 94,607 acres within the WSA would be open to mineral and energy exploration and development with a total of about 650 acres experiencing surface disturbance within the foreseeable future. The WSA is considered to have moderate to high favorability for the occurrence of metallic minerals and is believed to be one of the best "...potential areas for future metallic mineral finds of all the WSAs studied in the Basin and Range province..." (USDI, GEM, 1983). Grandfathered activities associated with the mining of gold in and around Fondaway Canyon have extended into the WSA. In addition, grandfathered exploration activities have taken place in the vicinity of Big Elk, Cox, Wood, Mill and Alameda Canyons. Non-grandfathered exploration activities are taking place in the areas around Cox, White Cloud, Mississippi and Hare Canyons and the old Dixie Comstock Mine in the northeast part of the WSA. Approximately 11,880 acres within the WSA are covered by mining claims. Plans of operation for development of these claims and any additional claims would be processed in accordance with existing regulations.

Two areas of private land, comprised of twenty-one parcels of patented mining claims, are found within the WSA. Twenty parcels totaling 552.11 acres are located in upper White Cloud Canyon and have roaded access. Renewed interest has been shown in developing these lands over the past few years and the possibility that this may occur is believed to be moderate to high. One parcel of 67.67 acres of patented land is found just north of Mississippi Canyon on the east side of the WSA. There is no roaded access to this land and the possibility for development is considered low.

Exploration for metallic minerals is expected to occur throughout the WSA although the greatest concentration of activities will be around the canyons mentioned above. The total surface disturbance in the WSA is expected to be about 360 acres within the foreseeable future with construction of up to 1200 drill pads and 90 miles of new roads.

It is expected that exploration would result in the development of two small surface gold and silver mines in either the Fondaway, Cox, White Cloud, Mississippi or Hare Canyon areas, or around the site of the old Dixie Comstock Mine. These developments would consist of open pit mines, waste dumps, tailings ponds, mill sites and approximately 10 miles of access and haul roads. The total disturbance in the WSA is expected to be about 210 acres.

Potential for development of nonmetallic minerals is low because of low favorability for occurrence. Potential for development of saleable minerals is low because the area is remote and could not compete with resources located closer to market.

Geophysical exploration and drilling for geothermal energy is anticipated to occur on portions of the 11,247 acres under lease in the WSA. This would involve some cross-country travel and exploration drilling would result in approximately 20 wells and 15 miles of road, disturbing about 30-35 acres of land. It is expected that a viable geothermal resource would be found along the eastern edge of the WSA. A 15-20 megawatt plant would be constructed, with six miles of development roads, four production wells, pipelines, injection wells and a plant facility. Approximately 45 acres of surface disturbance would result from this development.

Oil and gas leases occupy 17,754 acres within the WSA, however, the entire WSA is classified as having a low potential for the occurrence of oil and gas and reliable data indicates that no exploration or development will occur.

• Livestock Grazing and Range Management Actions

The Stillwater Range WSA would continue to be managed for 2,035 AUMs of livestock grazing use on all of two, and portions of four other allotments. Some increased use may occur in the Mississippi and Hare Canyon allotments with completion of the Dixie Valley AMP in 1987, however, this would not exceed existing preference. One well and three miles of barbed-wire fenceline would be maintained by vehicle, on foot or by horseback on an annual basis. Range improvements proposed to enhance distribution of livestock use and improve the condition of vegetative communities include: two miles of fencing, two spring developments, and protective fencing of six other springs with attendant water troughs placed nearby. Existing roads and ways would be utilized, where feasible, for access during construction of range improvements. Otherwise, materials would be packed in by horseback. No new roads or trails would be constructed.

Alternative A (All Wilderness): 94,607 Acres Recommended for
Wilderness Designation
0 Acres Non-Wilderness

All 94,607 acres of the Stillwater Range WSA would be designated as wilderness. Under this alternative, motorized recreation use would be prohibited. Livestock use would continue to be allotted at current use levels. Discretionary management actions would be permitted only to preserve wilderness values (See Map 2-5).

- Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Use

Wilderness designation would prohibit all motorized recreation use within the 94,607 acres of the WSA. Approximately 100 visitor days of motorized recreation use would be eliminated and 21.5 miles of existing primitive vehicle routes would be closed to recreational vehicle use. There still would be about 200 visitor days of motorized recreational use along the 27.5 miles of cherrystemmed roads. In both cases, use is primarily associated with vehicle access for hunting, rockhounding and recreational prospecting. Projection estimates indicate that recreational ORV use would increase to 390 visitor days per year in the foreseeable future, all occurring along cherrystemmed roads.

- Other Recreation

The Stillwater Range WSA would be open for non-motorized recreation activities. These include day hiking, camping, horseback riding, hunting and sightseeing. Current non-motorized use is estimated at about 225 visitor days per year. With designation as wilderness, it is anticipated that use would increase slowly to a total of 425 visitor days per year in the foreseeable future. No recreation facilities or trails exist in the WSA and no development of any is planned.

- Mineral Resource Actions

Subject to valid existing rights, the entire Stillwater Range WSA would be withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the mining and mineral leasing laws. Approximately 11,880 acres of the WSA are covered by mining claims. These claims and any other mineral claims that exist at the time of designation would be examined to determine validity when plans of operation are submitted. It is estimated that claim groups in either the Fondaway or Cox Canyon areas may be able to meet the validity criteria.

Due to the lack of mineral discovery on other mining claims currently existing in the WSA, no other mineral development is anticipated. Additional mineral exploration activities would be foregone. Geothermal and oil and gas resource exploration within the WSA would be foregone.

If requested by the owners of patented mining claims in the WSA, means of access to these claims would have to be developed or improved.

• Livestock Grazing and Range Management Actions

The Stillwater Range WSA would continue to be managed for 2,035 AUMs of livestock grazing use on all of two, and portions of four other allotments. Some increased use may occur in the Mississippi and Hare Canyon Allotments with completion of the Dixie Valley AMP in 1987, however, this would not exceed existing preference. One well and three miles of barbed-wire fenceline would be maintained. Two miles of fencing, two spring developments and protective fencing of six other spring sources would be accomplished in order to enhance distribution of livestock use and improve the condition of vegetative communities. Existing cherry-stemmed roads would be utilized, where feasible, for access during construction of range improvements. Otherwise, materials would be packed in by horseback. No new roads or trails would be required or allowed to be constructed.

The one well found in the area will require heavy maintenance every five years and will require the use of a boom truck for up to two days. Several other improvements would be located along cherrystemmed roads outside the WSA and would be maintained by motorized vehicles. Those improvements not near a cherrystemmed road would be checked yearly either on foot or by horseback. The use of motorized vehicles within the wilderness area for normal livestock management activities would be restricted, but such use could be approved for maintenance or other activities.

Alternative B (Partial Wilderness): 29,797 Acres Recommended for
Wilderness Designation
64,810 Acres Non-Wilderness

A portion of the Stillwater Range WSA, 29,797 acres, would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation. This acreage would be managed to preserve wilderness values and motorized recreation use would be prohibited. The remaining 64,810 acres would be managed for multiple-use under the existing Lahontan Resource Area RMP (See Map 2-6).

• Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Use

The 29,797 acre parcel recommended as suitable for wilderness designation would be closed to recreational ORV use. Approximately five miles of existing vehicle routes would be closed eliminating 35 visitor days per year in the designated portion of the WSA. This loss would primarily affect deer hunters.

The remaining 64,810 acres would be open to motorized vehicle use, including 27.5 miles of cherrystemmed roads and 16.5 miles of vehicle ways. Projection estimates indicate that recreational ORV use would increase from 265 visitor days to approximately 430 visitor days per year in the foreseeable future.

- Other Recreation

The Stillwater Range WSA would be open for non-motorized recreation activities. These include day hiking, camping, horseback riding, hunting and sightseeing. Current non-motorized use is estimated at about 225 visitor days per year. This is expected to increase slowly with designation as wilderness to a total of 425 visitor days per year in the foreseeable future. Non-motorized recreation use occurs primarily in the canyons and along the ridgetop. No recreation facilities or trails exist in the WSA. Development of recreation facilities is not anticipated.

- Mineral Resource Actions

Subject to valid existing rights, the 29,797 acres of the Stillwater Range WSA recommended suitable would be withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the mineral leasing and mining laws. Approximately 280 acres of the area recommended suitable are covered by mining claims. These claims and any other claims that exist at the time of designation would be examined to determine validity when plans of operation are submitted. No plans of operation currently are anticipated due to the lack of a mineral discovery on any of these claims. No other mineral development is anticipated in the suitable portion of the WSA. Metallic mineral resource potential is classified as moderate within the suitable portion of the WSA.

The remainder of the WSA is considered to have moderate to high favorability for the occurrence of metallic minerals. It is anticipated that within the foreseeable future, a total of 610 acres will experience surface disturbing activities. About 11,600 acres within the nonsuitable portion of the WSA are covered by mining claims. Plans of operation for development of these claims and any additional claims would be processed in accordance with existing regulations.

Exploration for metallic minerals is expected to occur throughout the nonsuitable part of the WSA although the greatest concentration of activities will be around Fondaway, Cox, White Cloud, Big Elk and Mill Canyons, and the old Dixie Comstock Mine in the northeast part of the WSA. The total surface disturbance in this part of the WSA is expected to be about 320 acres within the foreseeable future with construction of up to 1100 drill pads and 78 miles of new roads.

It is expected that exploration would result in the development of two small surface gold and silver mines in either the Fondaway, Cox, White Cloud, Mississippi or Hare Canyon areas, or around the site of the old Dixie Comstock mine. These developments would consist of open pit mines, waste dumps, tailings ponds, mill sites and approximately 10 miles of access and haul roads. The total disturbance in the WSA is expected to be about 210 acres.

Two areas of private land, comprised of twenty-one parcels of patented mining claims, are found within the nonsuitable portion of the WSA. Twenty parcels totaling 552.11 acres are located in upper White Cloud Canyon and have roaded access. Renewed interest has been shown in developing these lands over the past few years and the possibility that this may occur is believed to be moderate to high. One parcel of 67.67 acres of patented land is found just north of Mississippi Canyon on the east side of the WSA. There is no roaded access to this land and the possibility for development is considered low.

Potential for development of nonmetallic minerals is low because of low favorability for occurrence. Potential for development of saleable minerals is low because the area is remote and could not compete with resources located closer to market.

Geophysical exploration and drilling for geothermal energy is anticipated to occur on portions of the 9,047 acres under lease in the non-suitable portion of the WSA. This would involve some cross-country travel and exploration drilling would result in approximately 20 wells and 15 miles of road, disturbing about 30-35 acres of land. It is expected that a viable geothermal resource would be found along the eastern edge of the WSA. A 15-20 megawatt plant would be constructed, with six miles of development roads, four production wells, pipelines, injection wells and a plant facility. Approximately 45 acres of surface disturbance would result from this development.

Oil and gas leases occupy 17,754 acres within the nonsuitable portion of the WSA, however, the entire WSA is classified as having a low potential for the occurrence of oil and gas and reliable data indicates that no exploration or development would occur.

• Livestock Grazing and Range Management Actions

The Stillwater Range WSA would continue to be managed for 2,035 AUMs of livestock grazing use on all of two, and portions of four other allotments. Some increased use may occur in the Mississippi and Hare Canyon Allotments with completion of the Dixie Valley AMP in 1987, however, this would not exceed existing preference. In the parcel recommended suitable for wilderness designation, one-quarter mile of barbed-wire fenceline would be maintained. Range improvements proposed

to enhance distribution of livestock use and improve the condition of vegetative communities include two miles of fencing and protective fencing of two springs with attendant water troughs placed nearby. Existing cherrystemmed roads would be utilized, where feasible, for access during construction of range improvements. Otherwise, materials would be packed in by horseback. The use of motorized vehicles within the wilderness area for normal livestock management activities would be restricted, but such use could be approved for maintenance or other activities.

In the nonsuitable portion of the WSA, two and three-quarter miles of fencing and one well would be maintained. Two springs would be developed and fenced and four other springs would be fenced to protect the spring source. Existing roads and ways would be utilized for access during construction of these improvements. If this would not be feasible, materials would be packed in by horseback. Range improvements in the nonsuitable portion would be maintained by vehicle, on foot, or by horseback, generally on an annual basis. Maintenance of the well will require the use of a boom truck for 1-2 days approximately every five years.

DESATOYA MOUNTAINS WSA
(NV-030-110/060-288)

Proposed Action (Alternative B - Partial Wilderness): 43,053 Acres Recommended
for Wilderness
Designation
8,260 Acres
Non-Wilderness

Under the Proposed Action, 43,053 acres would be designated wilderness. This includes 51 acres added to the original WSA to enhance manageability of the area. This portion of the WSA would be managed to preserve wilderness values and motorized recreation use would be prohibited. The remaining 8,260 acres would be managed for multiple use under the existing Lahontan Resource Area RMP (See Map 2-7).

• Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Use

The 43,053 acre parcel recommended suitable for wilderness designation would be closed to recreational ORV use. Cherrystemmed roads extend into the area from the eastern and western boundaries. Approximately 4 miles of existing vehicle routes would be closed. These closures would affect primarily deer and chukar hunters.

The remaining 8,260 acres would be open to motorized vehicle use. Four miles of vehicle ways and 5 miles of cherrystemmed roads form portions of the boundary between the suitable and unsuitable parcels and would remain open. About 7 miles of cherrystemmed roads within the designated portion of the WSA also would remain open. Projection estimates indicate that recreational ORV use would increase slightly, primarily due to recreationists' desire to gain access to the wilderness area.

- Other Recreation

The Desatoya Mountains WSA would be open for non-motorized recreation activities. These include day hiking, backpacking, camping, horseback riding, hunting, cross-county skiing, nature study and sightseeing. Non-motorized use is expected to remain steady or increase slowly on the 8,260 acres recommended unsuitable for wilderness designation. On the 43,053 acre parcel recommended suitable, it is anticipated that use will increase more rapidly. Non-motorized use occurs primarily in the canyons along the west side and along the ridgetop. No recreation facilities or trails exist in the WSA. Development of recreation facilities is not anticipated.

- Mineral Resource Actions

Subject to valid existing rights, the 43,053 acres of the Desatoya Mountains WSA recommended suitable under the Proposed Action would be withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the mining and mineral leasing laws. There are no mining claims within the area recommended suitable. Any claims which might exist at the time of designation would be examined to determine validity when plans of operation are submitted. No plans of operation or mineral developments currently are anticipated due to the lack of a mineral discovery.

In the long term, it is expected that metallic mineral exploration will take place in the Dry Canyon area of the 8,260 acre parcel recommended unsuitable. It is anticipated that approximately 35 drill pads and 5 miles of road would be constructed in this part of the WSA, resulting in about 14 acres of surface disturbance. No development of a metallic mineral resource is expected.

No development of nonmetallic minerals is anticipated because of a low favorability for occurrence. Development of saleable mineral resources within the WSA is not anticipated since the area is remote and could not compete with those resources located closer to market.

There are no geothermal leases located anywhere within the WSA. Geothermal potential is considered moderate in the eastern one-third of the WSA and low everywhere else. There are 2,112 acres of oil and gas leases located in the far northern part of the WSA. Oil and gas potential is classified low throughout the WSA. No geothermal or oil and gas exploration or development is anticipated in the foreseeable future.

• Livestock Grazing and Range Management Actions

The Desatoya Mountains WSA would continue to be managed for 2,214 AUMs of livestock grazing use on portions of five allotments. In the parcel recommended suitable for wilderness designation, two and one-half miles of fenceline and two spring developments would be maintained. All of these range improvements are accessible by cherrystemmed roads and would be maintained on an annual basis by motorized vehicle. Additional range improvements planned for construction within the suitable portion in order to enhance distribution of livestock use and improve the condition of vegetative communities include three miles of allotment boundary fence, protective fencing of six spring sources and one spring development. Existing cherrystemmed roads would be utilized, where feasible, for access during construction. Otherwise, materials would be packed in by horseback. The use of motorized vehicles within the wilderness area for normal livestock management activities would be restricted, but such use could be approved for maintenance or other activities.

In the nonsuitable portion of the WSA, one and one-half miles of existing fenceline would be maintained by vehicle, on foot or by horseback, generally on an annual basis. It is not expected that any additional range improvements will be constructed in the nonsuitable portion.

A cherrystemmed road which forms part of the boundary between the suitable and nonsuitable portions of the WSA provides access to two parcels of private land totaling 120 acres. These lands are owned by the grazing permittee in the area and it is unlikely that any major development would occur on them.

• Woodland Products Management Actions

About 2,080 acres of productive pinyon-juniper woodland, primarily found in the southwest portion of the area recommended suitable for designation, would be unavailable for firewood cutting or commercial harvest of pine nuts. This represents approximately 5.5% of the manageable woodlands within the RMP area. About 160 acres of productive woodland in the nonsuitable portion of the WSA would remain available for intensive management.

Alternative A (All Wilderness): 51,313 Acres Recommended
for Wilderness Designation
0 Acres Non-Wilderness

The 51,262 acres in the Desatoya Mountains WSA, along with 51 acres added to the original WSA to enhance manageability of the area, would be designated as wilderness. Livestock use would continue to be allotted at current use levels. Discretionary management actions would be permitted only to preserve wilderness values (See Map 2-8).

- Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Use

Wilderness designation would prohibit all motorized recreation use within the 51,313 acres of the WSA. Approximately 100 visitor days per year of motorized recreation use would be eliminated and 8 miles of existing primitive vehicle routes would be closed to recreation vehicle use. There still would be about 300 visitor days per year of motorized recreational use along the 12 miles of cherrystemmed roads. In both cases, use is primarily associated with vehicle access for hunting, hiking, camping and sightseeing. Projection estimates indicate that recreational ORV use would increase to 520 visitor days per year in the foreseeable future, all occurring along cherrystemmed roads.

- Other Recreation

The Desatoya Mountains WSA would be open for non-motorized recreation activities. These include day hiking, backpacking, camping, hunting, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, sightseeing and nature study. Current non-motorized use is estimated at about 840 visitor days per year. With designation as wilderness, it is anticipated that use would increase slowly to a total of 2,500 visitor days per year in the foreseeable future. No recreation facilities or trails exist in the WSA and no development of any is planned.

- Mineral Resource Actions

Subject to valid existing rights, the entire Desatoya Mountains WSA would be withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the mining and mineral leasing laws. There are no mining claims within the WSA. Any mineral claims that exist at the time of designation would be examined to determine validity when plans of operation are submitted. No plans of operation currently are anticipated due to the lack of claims and a mineral discovery. Mineral exploration activities would be foregone. Geothermal and oil and gas resource exploration within the WSA would be foregone.

- Livestock Grazing and Range Management Actions

The Desatoya Mountains WSA would continue to be managed for 2,214 AUMs of livestock grazing use on portions of five allotments. Two developed springs and four miles of barbed-wire fence would be maintained. Three miles of allotment boundary fence, protection fencing of six spring sources and one spring development would be constructed to enhance distribution of livestock use and improve the condition of vegetative communities. Existing cherrystemmed roads would be utilized, where feasible, for access during construction. Otherwise, materials would be packed in by horseback.

The majority of existing range improvements are located along cherrystemmed roads which are outside the WSA, and would be maintained by motorized vehicles. Fences not near a cherrystemmed road would be checked yearly either on foot or by horseback, as would new fences and spring developments. The use of motorized vehicles within the wilderness area for normal livestock management activities would be restricted, but such use could be approved for maintenance or other activities.

A cherrystemmed road provides access to two adjacent parcels of private land totaling 120 acres. These lands are owned by the grazing permittee in the area and it is unlikely that any major development would occur on them.

- Woodland Products Management Actions

Approximately 2,240 acres of productive pinyon-juniper woodland on the southwestern side of the WSA, and in scattered tracts along cherrystemmed roads in the northeast, would be unavailable for firewood cutting or commercial harvest of pine nuts. This represents about 6% of the manageable woodlands within the RMP area.

Alternative D (No Wilderness): 0 Acres Recommended for
Wilderness Designation
51,262 Acres Non-Wilderness

None of the 51,262 acres in the Desatoya Mountains WSA would be designated as wilderness. The area would be managed for multiple use under the guidance of the Lahontan Resource Area RMP.

- Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Use

The entire 51,262 acres within the WSA would be open to motorized recreation use. In addition to the twelve miles of existing roads, eight miles of existing primitive vehicle routes would remain open. Approximately 400 visitor days of motorized vehicle use occurs annually within the WSA at the present time. This use is expected to increase to 600 visitor days per year in the foreseeable future.

- Other Recreation

The Desatoya Mountains WSA would be managed for other recreation activities in addition to recreational ORV use. These activities include day hiking, backpacking, camping, hunting, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, sightseeing and nature study. Current use is estimated at about 840 visitor days per year within the WSA and is expected to increase to 1,450 visitor days annually in the foreseeable future. No recreation facilities or trails exist in the WSA. Development of facilities or trails is not anticipated.

• Mineral Resource Actions

The entire 51,262 acres within the WSA would be open to mineral and energy exploration and development. The WSA is considered to have low to moderate favorability for the occurrence of metallic minerals. No active mines are located within the WSA and there are no claims located in the study area. Some exploration has occurred just outside the WSA boundary on the extreme southeast and near Cold Springs in the northeast. Plans of operation for development of any future claims would be processed in accordance with existing regulations.

In the long term, it is expected that metallic mineral exploration will take place in the Dry Canyon area in the northeast portion of the WSA. It is anticipated that approximately 50 drill pads and 6 miles of road would be constructed, resulting in about 19 acres of surface disturbance. No development of a metallic mineral resource is expected.

No development of nonmetallic minerals is anticipated because of a low favorability for occurrence. Development of saleable mineral resources within the WSA is not anticipated since the area is remote and could not compete with those resources located closer to market.

There are no geothermal leases located anywhere within the WSA. Geothermal potential is considered moderate in the eastern one-third of the WSA and low everywhere else. There are 2,112 acres of oil and gas leases located in the far northern part of the WSA. Oil and gas potential is classified low throughout the WSA. No geothermal or oil and gas exploration or development is anticipated in the foreseeable future.

• Livestock Grazing and Range Management Actions

The Desatoya Mountains WSA would continue to be managed for 2,214 AUMs of livestock grazing use on portions of five allotments. Two spring developments and four miles of barbed-wire fenceline would be maintained on an annual basis by vehicle, on foot or by horseback. Additional range improvements planned for construction, in order to enhance distribution of livestock use and improve the condition of vegetative communities, include three miles of allotment boundary fence, protective fencing of six spring sources and one spring development. Existing roads and ways would be utilized, where feasible, for access during construction. Otherwise, materials would be packed in by horseback. Maintenance would be done by vehicle, on foot or by horseback.

A cherrystemmed road provides access to 120 acres of private land owned by the grazing permittee in the area.

- Woodland Products Management Actions

Approximately 2,240 acres of productive pinyon-juniper woodland on the southwestern side of the WSA and in scattered tracts along cherrystemmed roads in the northeast would be available for firewood cutting or commercial harvest of pine nuts. This represents about 6% of the manageable woodland within the RMP area.

Alternative C (Partial Wilderness): 25,498 Acres Recommended for
Wilderness Designation
25,764 Acres Non-Wilderness

A portion of the Desatoya Mountains WSA, 25,498 acres, would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation. This acreage would be managed to preserve wilderness values and motorized recreation use would be prohibited. The remaining 25,764 acres would be managed for multiple use under the existing Lahontan Resource Area RMP (see Map 2-9).

- Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Use

The 25,498 acre parcel recommended as suitable for wilderness designation would be closed to recreational ORV use. Three short cherrystemmed roads extend into the area from the western boundary. Approximately one and one-half miles of existing vehicle routes would be closed, eliminating 20 visitor days per year in the designated portion of the WSA. This loss primarily would affect deer hunters.

The remaining 25,764 acres would be open to motorized vehicle use, including 10.5 miles of cherrystemmed roads and 6.5 miles of vehicle ways. One and one-half miles of cherrystemmed roads within the designated portion of the WSA also would remain open. Projection estimates indicate that recreational ORV use would increase from 380 visitor days to approximately 570 visitor days per year in the foreseeable future.

- Other Recreation

The Desatoya Mountains WSA would be open for non-motorized recreation activities. These include camping, backpacking, day hiking, horseback riding, sightseeing, hunting and nature study. Current non-motorized use is estimated at about 840 visitor days per year. This is expected to increase slowly with designation of part of the area as wilderness to a total of 2,500 visitor days per year in the foreseeable future. Non-motorized recreation use occurs primarily in the canyons and along the ridgetop. No recreation facilities or trails exist in the WSA. Development of recreation facilities is not anticipated.

• Mineral Resource Actions

Subject to valid existing rights, the 25,498 acres of the Desatoya Mountains WSA recommended suitable would be withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the mineral leasing and mining laws. There are no mining claims within the area recommended suitable. Any claims which might exist at the time of designation would be examined to determine validity when plans of operation are submitted. No plans of operation or mineral developments currently are anticipated due to the lack of a mineral discovery.

In the long term, it is expected that metallic mineral exploration will take place in the Dry Canyon area of the 25,764 acre parcel recommended nonsuitable. It is anticipated that approximately 40 drill pads and 5 miles of road would be constructed in this part of the WSA, resulting in about 15 acres of surface disturbance. No development of a metallic mineral resource is expected.

No development of nonmetallic minerals is anticipated because of a low favorability for occurrence. Development of saleable mineral resources within the WSA is not anticipated since the area is remote and could not compete with those resources located closer to market.

There are no geothermal leases located anywhere within the WSA. Geothermal potential is considered moderate in the eastern one-third of the WSA and low everywhere else. There are 2,112 acres of oil and gas leases located in the far northern part of the WSA. Oil and gas potential is classified low throughout the WSA. No geothermal oil and gas exploration or development is anticipated in the foreseeable future.

• Livestock Grazing and Range Management Actions

The Desatoya Mountains WSA would continue to be managed for approximately 2,214 AUMs of livestock grazing use on portions of five allotments. In the parcel recommended suitable for wilderness designation, there are no existing range improvements. Range improvements planned for construction within the suitable portion in order to enhance distribution of livestock use and improve the condition of vegetative communities include three miles of allotment boundary fence, protective fencing of four spring sources and one spring development. Existing cherrystemmed roads would be utilized, where feasible, for access during construction. Otherwise, materials would be packed in by horseback. The use of motorized vehicles within the wilderness area for normal livestock management activities would be restricted, but such use could be approved for maintenance or other activities.

In the nonsuitable portion of the WSA, four miles of existing fenceline and two spring developments would be maintained by vehicle, on foot or by horseback, generally on an annual basis. It is expected that protective fencing will be constructed around two spring sources. Construction and maintenance of these facilities also will be accomplished by vehicle, on foot or by horseback.

A cherrystemmed road provides access to 120 acres of private land in the nonsuitable portion of the WSA. This acreage is owned by the grazing permittee in the area and it is unlikely that any major development would occur on it.

- Woodland Products Management Actions

About 1,040 acres of productive pinyon-juniper woodland, primarily found in the southwest portion of the area recommended suitable for designation, would be unavailable for firewood cutting or commercial harvest of pine nuts. This represents about 3% of the manageable woodlands within the RMP area. About 1,200 acres of productive woodland in the nonsuitable portion of the WSA would remain available for intensive management.

JOB PEAK WSA
(NV-030-127)

Proposed Action (Alternative D - No Wilderness): 0 Acres Recommended
for Wilderness

Designation

90,209 Acres Non-Wilderness

None of the 90,209 acres in the Job Peak WSA would be designated as wilderness. The area would be managed for multiple-use under the guidance of the Lahontan Resource Area RMP (See Map 2-10).

- Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Use

The entire 90,209 acres within the WSA would be open to motorized recreation use. In addition to the 21 miles of existing roads, 11 miles of existing primitive vehicle routes would remain open. Approximately 340 visitor days of motorized vehicle use occurs annually within the WSA at the present time. This use is expected to increase to 580 visitor days per year in the foreseeable future.

- Other Recreation

The Job Peak WSA would be managed for other recreation activities in addition to recreational ORV use. These activities include day hiking,

camping, horseback riding and hunting. Current use is estimated at about 240 visitor days per year within the WSA and is expected to increase to 325 visitor days annually in the foreseeable future. No recreation facilities or trails exist in the WSA. Development of facilities or trails is not anticipated.

Mineral Resource Actions

The entire 90,209 acres within the WSA would be open to mineral and energy exploration and development. The WSA is considered to have moderate to high favorability for the occurrence of metallic minerals and is believed to be one of the best "...potential areas for future metallic mineral finds of all the WSAs studied in the Basin and Range province..." (USDI, GEM, 1983). No active mines are located within the WSA. Exploration activities have taken place in the vicinity of Poco, Pete and West Lee Canyons. Approximately 4,700 acres within the WSA are covered by mining claims. Plans of operation for development of these claims and any additional claims would be processed in accordance with existing regulations. A total of 218 acres is expected to be disturbed as a result of mineral and energy exploration and development activities within the foreseeable future.

Exploration for metallic minerals is expected to occur throughout the WSA, although the greatest concentration of activities will be around the canyons mentioned above. The total surface disturbance in the WSA is expected to be about 187 acres within the foreseeable future with construction of up to 600 drill pads and 50 miles of new roads. It is not expected that exploration would result in the development of metallic mineral resources in the foreseeable future.

Potential for development of nonmetallic minerals is low because of low favorability for occurrence. Potential for development of saleable minerals is low because the area is remote and could not compete with resources located closer to market.

There are 15,166 acres of land under geothermal lease on the eastern side of the WSA. Geophysical exploration and drilling for geothermal energy is anticipated to occur along the alluvial fan in this area. This would involve some cross-country travel and exploration drilling would result in approximately 5 wells and 8 miles of road, disturbing about 16 acres of land. It is expected that a viable geothermal resource would be found along the eastern edge of the WSA. A five megawatt plant would be constructed, with four miles of development roads, two production wells, pipelines, injection wells and a plant facility. Approximately 15 acres of surface disturbance would result from this development.

Oil and gas leases occupy 9,867 acres within the WSA, however, the entire WSA is classified as having a low potential for the occurrence of oil and gas and reliable data indicates that no exploration or development will occur.

- Livestock Grazing and Range Management Actions

The Job Peak WSA would continue to be managed for 4,860 AUMs of livestock grazing use on portions of five allotments. About fifty-five small spring developments, nine miles of water pipeline and associated stock tanks, twelve miles of fenceline, four line shacks and two corrals would be maintained by vehicle, on foot or by horseback, on an annual basis. Range improvements proposed to enhance distribution of livestock use and improve the condition of vegetative communities include: three miles of fencing, protective fencing of seven other springs, two miles of pipeline and construction of a one acre reaper (precipitation catchment apron with storage tank and water trough). The pipeline and reaper are projects authorized under an Allotment Management Plan signed in 1970.

Existing roads and ways would be utilized, where feasible, for access during construction of range improvements. Otherwise, materials would be packed in by horseback. No new roads or trails would be constructed.

Alternative A (All Wilderness): 90,209 Acres Recommended
for Wilderness Designation
0 Acres Non-Wilderness

All 90,209 acres of the Job Peak WSA would be designated as wilderness. Under this alternative, motorized recreation use would be prohibited. Livestock use would continue to be allotted at current use levels. Discretionary management actions would be permitted only to preserve wilderness values (See Map 2-11).

- Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Use

Wilderness designation would prohibit all motorized recreation use within the 90,209 acres of the WSA. Approximately 70 visitor days of motorized recreation use would be eliminated and 11 miles of existing primitive vehicle routes would be closed to recreational vehicle use. There still would be about 270 visitor days of motorized recreational use along the 21 miles of cherrystemmed roads. In both cases, use is primarily associated with vehicle access for hunting and hiking. Projection estimates indicate that recreational ORV use would increase to 525 visitor days per year in the foreseeable future, all occurring along cherrystemmed roads.

- Other Recreation

The Job Peak WSA would be open for non-motorized recreation activities. These include day hiking, camping, horseback riding, hunting and sightseeing. Current non-motorized use is estimated at about 240 visitor days per year. With designation as wilderness, it is anticipated that use would increase slowly to a total of 475 visitor days per year in the foreseeable future. No recreation facilities or trails exist in the WSA and no development of any is planned.

• Mineral Resource Actions

Subject to valid existing rights, the entire Job Peak WSA would be withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the mining and mineral leasing laws. Approximately 4,700 acres of the WSA are covered by mining claims. These claims and any other mineral claims that exist at the time of designation would be examined to determine validity when plans of operation are submitted. No plans of operation currently are anticipated due to the lack of a mineral discovery on any of the existing claims. No mineral development is anticipated in the foreseeable future. Additional mineral exploration activities would be foregone. Geothermal and oil and gas resource exploration within the WSA would be foregone.

• Livestock Grazing and Range Management Actions

The Job Peak WSA would continue to be managed for 4,860 AUMs of livestock grazing use on portions of five allotments. About fifty-five small spring developments, nine miles of water pipeline and associated stock tanks, twelve miles of fenceline, four line shacks and two corrals would be maintained. Three miles of fencing, protective fencing of seven other spring sources, two miles of water pipeline and a one acre reaper would be constructed in order to enhance distribution of livestock use and improve the condition of vegetative communities. The reaper and new pipeline were approved in an allotment management plan which predates FLPMA. Existing cherrystemmed roads would be utilized, where feasible, for access during construction of range improvements. Otherwise, materials would be packed in by horseback.

Several improvements would be located along cherrystemmed roads which are outside the WSA and would be maintained by motorized vehicles. Those new and existing improvements not near a cherrystemmed road would be checked yearly either on foot or by horseback. The use of motorized vehicles within the wilderness area for normal livestock management activities would be restricted, but such use could be approved for maintenance or other activities.

Alternative B (Partial Wilderness): 37,499 Acres Recommended
for Wilderness Designation
52,732 Acres Non-Wilderness

A portion of the Job Peak WSA, 37,477 acres, would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation. This acreage would be managed to preserve wilderness values and motorized recreation use would be prohibited. The remaining 52,732 acres would be managed for multiple-use under the existing Lahontan Resource Area RMP (See Map 2-12).

- Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Use

The 37,477 acre parcel recommended as suitable for wilderness designation would be closed to recreational ORV use. Approximately seven miles of existing vehicle routes would be closed eliminating 60 visitor days per year in the designated portion of the WSA. This loss would primarily affect deer and chukar hunters.

The remaining 52,732 acres would be open to motorized vehicle use, including 21 miles of cherrystemmed roads and 4 miles of vehicle ways. Projection estimates indicate that recreational ORV use would increase from 280 visitor days to approximately 460 visitor days per year in the foreseeable future.

- Other Recreation

The Job Peak WSA would be open for non-motorized recreation activities. These include day hiking, camping, horseback riding, hunting and sightseeing. Current non-motorized use is estimated at about 240 visitor days per year. This is expected to increase slowly with designation as wilderness to a total of 475 visitor days per year in the foreseeable future. Non-motorized recreation use occurs primarily in the canyons and along the ridgetop. No recreation facilities or trails exist in the WSA. Development of recreation facilities is not anticipated.

- Mineral Resource Actions

Subject to valid existing rights, the 37,477 acres of the Job Peak WSA recommended suitable would be withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the mineral leasing and mining laws. Approximately 1,480 acres of the area recommended suitable are covered by mining claims. These claims and any other claims that exist at the time of designation would be examined to determine validity when plans of operation are submitted. No plans of operation currently are anticipated due to the lack of a mineral discovery on any of these claims. No other mineral development is anticipated in the suitable portion of the WSA. Metallic mineral resource potential is classified as moderate within the suitable portion of the WSA.

The remainder of the WSA is considered to have moderate favorability for the occurrence of metallic minerals. It is anticipated that within the foreseeable future a total of 165 acres will experience surface disturbing activities. About 3,220 acres within the unsuitable portion of the WSA are covered by mining claims. Plans of operation for development of these claims and any additional claims would be processed in accordance with existing regulations.

Exploration for metallic minerals is expected to occur throughout the nonsuitable part of the WSA although the greatest concentration of activities will be around Poco and Pete Canyons. The total surface disturbance in this part of the WSA is expected to be about 134 acres within the foreseeable future with construction of up to 410 drill pads and 37 miles of new roads.

It is not expected that exploration would result in the development of metallic mineral resources in the foreseeable future.

Potential for development of nonmetallic minerals is low because of low favorability for occurrence. Potential for development of saleable minerals is low because the area is remote and could not compete with resources located closer to market.

Geophysical exploration and drilling for geothermal energy is anticipated to occur along the alluvial fan on the eastern side of the WSA in the non-suitable portion of the unit. This would involve some cross-country travel. Exploration drilling would result in approximately 5 wells and 8 miles of road, disturbing about 16 acres of land. It is expected that a viable geothermal resource would be found along the eastern edge of the WSA. A five megawatt plant would be constructed, with four miles of development roads, two production wells, pipelines, injection wells and a plant facility. Approximately 15 acres of surface disturbance would result from this development.

Oil and gas leases occupy about 9,700 acres within the nonsuitable portion of the WSA, however, the entire WSA is classified as having a low potential for the occurrence of oil and gas and reliable data indicates that no exploration or development will occur.

• Livestock Grazing and Range Management Actions

The Job Peak WSA would continue to be managed for 4,860 AUMs of livestock grazing use on portions of five allotments. In the parcel recommended suitable for wilderness designation, forty small spring developments, three miles of water pipeline and associated stock tanks, seven miles of fenceline, four line shacks and two corrals would be maintained. Range improvements proposed to enhance distribution of livestock use and improve the condition of vegetative communities include three miles of fencing, protective fencing around five springs with attendant water troughs placed nearby, two miles of pipeline and construction of a one acre reaper. The pipeline and reaper are projects authorized under an Allotment Management Plan signed in 1970.

Existing cherrystemmed roads would be utilized, where feasible, for access during construction of range improvements. Otherwise, materials would be packed in by horseback. The use of motorized vehicles within

the wilderness area for normal livestock management activities would be restricted, but such use could be approved for maintenance or other activities.

In the non-suitable portion of the WSA, fifteen small spring developments, six miles of water pipeline and five miles of fence-line would be maintained. Protective fencing for two springs would be constructed. Existing roads and ways would be utilized for access during construction of these improvements. If this would not be feasible, materials would be packed in by horseback. Range improvements in the nonsuitable portion would be maintained by vehicle, on foot, or by horseback, generally on an annual basis.

Alternative C (Partial Wilderness): 20,522 Acres Recommended
for Wilderness Designation
69,687 Acres Non-Wilderness

A portion of the Job Peak WSA, 20,522 acres, would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation. This acreage would be managed to preserve wilderness values and motorized recreation use would be prohibited. The remaining 69,687 acres would be managed for multiple use under the existing Lahontan Resource Area RMP (See Map 2-13).

• Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Use

The 20,522 acre parcel recommended as suitable for wilderness designation would be closed to recreational ORV use. A cherry-stemmed road one mile long extends into the area from the south boundary. Approximately two miles of existing vehicle routes would be closed eliminating 20 visitor days per year in the designated portion of the WSA. This loss primarily would affect deer and chukar hunters.

The remaining 69,687 acres would be open to motorized vehicle use, including 20 miles of cherrystemmed roads and 9 miles of vehicle ways. One mile of cherrystemmed road within the designated portion of the WSA also would remain open. Projection estimates indicate that recreational ORV use would increase from 320 visitor days to approximately 540 visitor days per year in the foreseeable future.

• Other Recreation

The Job Peak WSA would be open for non-motorized recreation activities. These include camping, day hiking, horseback riding, hunting and sightseeing. Current non-motorized use is estimated at about 240 visitor days per year. This is expected to increase slowly with designation as wilderness to a total of 475 visitor days per year in the foreseeable future. Non-motorized recreation use occurs primarily in the canyons and along the ridgetop. No recreation facilities or trails exist in the WSA. Development of recreation facilities is not anticipated.

• Mineral Resource Actions

Subject to valid existing rights, the 20,522 acres of the Clan Alpine Mountains WSA recommended suitable would be withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the mineral leasing and mining laws. Approximately 500 acres of the area recommended suitable are covered by mining claims. These claims and any other mineral claims that exist at the time of designation would be examined to determine validity when plans of operation are submitted. No plans of operation currently are anticipated due to the lack of a mineral discovery on any of these claims. No other mineral development is anticipated in the suitable portion of the WSA. Metallic mineral resource potential is classified as moderate within the suitable portion of the WSA.

In the nonsuitable portion of the WSA, a total of about 178 acres would experience surface disturbing activities within the foreseeable future.

Exploration for metallic minerals is expected to occur throughout the nonsuitable part of the WSA although the greatest concentration of activities will be around Poco, Pete and West Lee Canyons. The total surface disturbance in this part of the WSA from this activity is expected to be about 147 acres within the foreseeable future with construction of up to 450 drill pads and 41 miles of new roads. It is not expected that exploration would result in the development of metallic mineral resources in the foreseeable future.

No development of nonmetallic minerals is anticipated because of a low favorability for occurrence. Development of saleable mineral resources within the WSA is not anticipated since the area is remote and could not compete with those resources located closer to market.

Geophysical exploration and drilling for geothermal energy is anticipated to occur along the alluvial fan on the eastern side of the WSA in the non-suitable portion of the unit.

This would involve some cross-country travel and exploration drilling would result in approximately 5 wells and 8 miles of road, disturbing about 16 acres of land. It is expected that a viable geothermal resource would be found along the eastern edge of the WSA. A 5 megawatt plant would be constructed, with four miles of development roads, two production wells, pipelines, injection wells and a plant facility. Approximately 15 acres of surface disturbance would result from this development.

• Livestock Grazing and Range Management Actions

The Job Peak WSA would continue to be managed for 4,860 AUMs of livestock grazing use on five allotments. In the parcel recommended suitable for wilderness designation, thirty-five small spring developments, three miles of fenceline and two line shacks would be

maintained. Range improvements proposed to enhance distribution of livestock use and improve the condition of vegetative communities include three miles of fencing, protective fencing of three springs with attendant water troughs placed nearby, and two miles of water pipeline. The pipeline project was authorized under an Allotment Management Plan signed in 1970.

Existing cherrystemmed roads would be utilized, where feasible, for access during construction of range improvements. Otherwise, materials would be packed in by horseback. The use of motorized vehicles within the wilderness area for normal livestock management activities would be restricted, but such use could be approved for maintenance or other activities.

In the non-suitable portion of the WSA, twenty small spring developments, nine miles of fenceline, nine miles of water pipeline, two line shacks and two corrals would be maintained. A one-acre reaper and protection fencing around four springs would be constructed. Existing roads and ways would be utilized for access during construction of these improvements. If this would not be feasible, materials would be packed in by horseback. Range improvements in the nonsuitable portion would be maintained by vehicle, on foot, or by horseback, generally on an annual basis.

TABLE 2-1

SUMMARY OF IMPACTS
CLAN ALPINE MOUNTAINS WSA

ALTERNATIVES				
ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE	PROPOSED ACTION (Alternative C - Partial Wilderness)	ALTERNATIVE A (All Wilderness)	ALTERNATIVE D (No Wilderness)	ALTERNATIVE B (Partial Wilderness)
Impacts on Wilderness Values	<p>On 68,458 acres designated, the area's most spectacular scenery, natural areas and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would be retained. This includes lands in Deep and Cow Canyons and along Bench Creek and Horse Creek, as well as Mt. Augusta.</p> <p>There would be a reduction of naturalness and opportunities for solitude on the 127,670 acres not designated wilderness.</p>	<p>All wilderness values in the 196,128 acres of the WSA would receive Congressional protection. This includes all of the major canyons, riparian areas and geologic formations stretching from Shoshone Meadows on the north to Bench Creek on the south.</p>	<p>There would be a reduction of naturalness and solitude opportunities in the long term due to energy and mineral exploration and development and continued and increasing ORV use. This would be most noticeable around Dyer, Florence and Bernice Canyons and Tungsten Mountain. There would be negligible impacts resulting from range improvement maintenance and harvest of woodland products.</p>	<p>On the 158,504 acres designated, the area's most spectacular scenery, natural areas and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would be retained. Lands with more moderate wilderness values also would be protected. This includes all of the major features such as Mt. Grant, Mt. Augusta, Deep and Cow Canyons, the majority of riparian areas and significant geologic formations.</p> <p>On the 37,624 acres not designated wilderness, there would be a reduction of naturalness and opportunities for solitude in the long-term.</p>

TABLE 2-1

SUMMARY OF IMPACTS
CLAN ALPINE MOUNTAINS WSA

ALTERNATIVES				
ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE	PROPOSED ACTION (Alternative C - Partial Wilderness)	ALTERNATIVE A (All Wilderness)	ALTERNATIVE D (No Wilderness)	ALTERNATIVE B (Partial Wilderness)
Impacts on Motorized Recreation Use	On the 68,458 acres designated, ORV use would be eliminated and 45 visitor days would be foregone annually. The impact of shifting this use to other public lands would be negligible.	Recreational ORV use of 300 visitor days would be foregone annually. The impact of shifting this use to other public lands would be negligible.	Recreational ORV use would increase to about 1600 visitor days annually in the foreseeable future.	On the 158,504 acres designated, ORV use would be eliminated and 150 visitor days would be foregone annually. The impact of shifting this use to other public lands would be negligible.
	On the 127,670 acres not designated, ORV use would increase to about 1100 visitor days annually in the long term.			On the 37,624 acres not designated, ORV use would increase to about 1400 visitor days annually in the long term.
Impacts on Development of Mineral/Energy Resources	On the 68,458 acres designated, exploration would be foregone. On the 127,670 acres not designated, there would be no impact on exploration and development. One small precious metals mine would be developed.	Exploration for mineral and energy resources would be foregone. Development of one small precious metal mine would be foregone.	Energy and mineral resources would be available for exploration and development. Development of one small precious metals mine is anticipated.	On the 158,504 acres designated, exploration would be foregone.
				On the 37,624 acres not designated, there would be no impact on exploration or development and one small precious metals mine would be developed.

TABLE 2-1

SUMMARY OF IMPACTS
CLAN ALPINE MOUNTAINS WSA

ALTERNATIVES				
ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE	PROPOSED ACTION (Alternative C - Partial Wilderness)	ALTERNATIVE A (All Wilderness)	ALTERNATIVE D (No Wilderness)	ALTERNATIVE B (Partial Wilderness)
Impacts on Woodland Products Availability	Woodland products availability would be reduced by about 6% in the Lahontan RMP area. About 94% of the manageable woodland within the RMP area would remain available for harvest. Approximately 2,360 acres of productive woodland would not be available for firewood cutting or commercial harvest of pine nuts.	Woodland products availability would be reduced by about 29% within the Lahontan RMP area. Approximately 10,850 acres of productive woodland would be unavailable for harvest.	No impact. About 10,850 acres of productive woodland, accounting for approximately 29 percent of the harvestable woodlands within the RMP area, would be available for woodland management.	Woodland products availability would be reduced by about 19% within the Lahontan RMP area. About 81% of the manageable woodland within the RMP area would remain available for harvest. Approximately 7,100 acres of productive woodland would not be available for firewood or Christmas tree cutting or commercial harvest of pine nuts.

TABLE 2-2

SUMMARY OF IMPACTS
STILLWATER RANGE WSA

ALTERNATIVES

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE	PROPOSED ACTION (Alternative D - No Wilderness)	ALTERNATIVE A (All Wilderness)	ALTERNATIVE B (Partial Wilderness)
Impacts on Wilderness Values	On 94,607 acres there would be a reduction of wilderness values in the long-term due to energy and mineral development activities and continued and increasing ORV use. This would be most noticeable around Mill, Hare and Mississippi Canyons.	All wilderness values on 94,607 acres, including the scenic Hare and Mississippi Canyon areas, would receive Congressional protection. Wilderness values would be lost on 105 acres subject to valid existing mineral rights. Development of this acreage would impact wilderness values immediately around this activity.	On the 29,797 acres designated, the area's best scenery, natural areas and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would be retained. This includes the scenic Hare and Mississippi Canyon areas. Lands with more moderate wilderness values also would be protected. On the 64,810 acres not designated wilderness, there would be a substantial reduction of wilderness values in the long-term.
Impact on Motorized Recreation Use	Recreational ORV use would increase to about 500 visitor days annually in the foreseeable future.	Recreational ORV use of 100 visitor days would be foregone annually. The impact of shifting this use to other public lands would be negligible.	On the 29,797 acres designated, ORV use would be eliminated and 35 visitor days would be foregone annually. The impact of shifting use to other lands would be negligible.

TABLE 2-2

SUMMARY OF IMPACTS
STILLWATER RANGE WSA

ALTERNATIVES

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE	PROPOSED ACTION (Alternative D - No Wilderness)	ALTERNATIVE A (All Wilderness)	ALTERNATIVE B (Partial Wilderness)
Impacts on Development of Mineral/Energy Resources	Energy and mineral resources would be available for exploration and development. Development of two precious metals mines and a 15-20 megawatt geothermal power plant is anticipated.	Exploration for mineral and energy resources would be foregone. One precious metal mine is expected to be developed on valid claims. Development of another precious metals mine and a 15-20 megawatt geothermal power plant would be fore- gone.	On the 64,810 acres not designated, ORV use would increase to about 430 visitor days annually in the long-term. On the 29,797 acres designated, exploration would be foregone. On the 64,810 acres not designated, there would be no impact on mineral and energy exploration and development. Two precious metals mines and a 15-20 megawatt geothermal power plant would be developed.

TABLE 2-3

SUMMARY OF IMPACTS
DESATOYA MOUNTAINS WSA

ALTERNATIVES				
ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE	PROPOSED ACTION (Alternative B - Partial Wilderness)	ALTERNATIVE A (All Wilderness)	ALTERNATIVE D (No Wilderness)	ALTERNATIVE C (Partial Wilderness)
Impacts on Wilderness Values	<p>On 43,053 acres designated, the area's most spectacular scenery, naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would be retained. This includes the majority of the main ridgeline, most riparian areas and deeply incised canyons on the west side of the WSA, most notably the well-known Dens and Willow Canyon areas.</p> <p>There would be a substantial reduction of naturalness and opportunities for solitude on the 8,260 acres not designated wilderness as a result of mineral exploration activities.</p>	<p>Wilderness values on 51,313 acres of the WSA would receive Congressional protection. This includes the main ridgeline, all riparian areas and the deeply incised canyons on the west side of the WSA, most notably the well-known Dens and Willow Canyon areas.</p>	<p>There would be a reduction of naturalness and solitude opportunities in the long-term due to energy and mineral exploration and development in the north, continued and increasing ORV use and harvest of woodland products. This would be most apparent around Dry Canyon in the northeast part of the WSA and the scenic Willow Canyon, Big Dens Canyon and Little Dens Canyon area.</p>	<p>On the 25,498 acres designated, the area's most spectacular scenery, naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would be retained. This includes most of the Willow and Dens Canyon area and the majority of land west of the main ridgeline.</p> <p>On the 25,764 acres not designated wilderness, there would be a reduction of naturalness and opportunities for solitude in the long-term as a result of mineral exploration activities, increased ORV use and harvest of woodland products.</p>

TABLE 2-3

SUMMARY OF IMPACTS
DESATOYA MOUNTAINS WSA

ALTERNATIVES				
ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE	PROPOSED ACTION (Alternative B - Partial Wilderness)	ALTERNATIVE A (All Wilderness)	ALTERNATIVE D (No Wilderness)	ALTERNATIVE C (Partial Wilderness)
Impact on Motorized Recreation Use	<p>On the 43,053 acres designated, ORV use would be eliminated and 50 visitor days would be foregone annually. The impact of shifting this use to other public lands would be negligible.</p> <p>On the 8,260 acres not designated, ORV use would increase to 510 visitor days annually in the long term.</p>	Recreational ORV use of 100 visitor days would be foregone annually. The impact of shifting this use to other public lands would be negligible.	Recreational ORV use would increase to about 600 visitor days annually in the foreseeable future.	<p>On the 25,498 acres designated, ORV use would be eliminated and 20 visitor days would be foregone annually. The impact of shifting this use to other public lands would be negligible.</p> <p>On the 25,764 acres not designated, ORV use would increase to about 570 visitor days annually in the long term.</p>
Impacts on Development of Mineral/Energy Resources	<p>On the 43,053 acres designated, exploration would be foregone.</p> <p>On the 8,260 acres not designated, there would be no impact on exploration and development.</p>	Exploration for mineral and energy resources would be foregone.	Energy and mineral resources would be available for exploration and development. No development is anticipated in the foreseeable future.	<p>On the 25,498 acres designated, exploration would be foregone.</p> <p>On the 25,764 acres not designated, there would be no impact on exploration or development.</p>

TABLE 2-3

SUMMARY OF IMPACTS
DESATOYA MOUNTAINS WSA

ALTERNATIVES				
ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE	PROPOSED ACTION (Alternative B - Partial Wilderness)	ALTERNATIVE A (All Wilderness)	ALTERNATIVE D (No Wilderness)	ALTERNATIVE C (Partial Wilderness)
Impacts on Woodland Products Availability	Woodland products availability would be reduced by about 5.5% in the Lahontan RMP area. About 2,080 acres of productive woodland would be unavailable for firewood cutting or commercial harvest of pine nuts. About 94.5% of the manageable woodland within the RMP area would remain available for harvest.	Woodland products availability would be reduced by about 6% within the Lahontan RMP area. About 2,240 acres of productive pinyon-juniper woodland would be unavailable for harvest.	No impact. About 2,240 acres of productive woodland, accounting for approximately 6% of the harvestable woodlands within the RMP area, would be available for woodland management.	Woodland products availability would be reduced by about 3% within the Lahontan RMP area. Approximately 97% of the manageable woodlands within the RMP area would remain available for harvest. About 1,040 acres of productive woodland would not be available for firewood cutting or commercial harvest of pine nuts.

TABLE 2-4

SUMMARY OF IMPACTS JOB PEAK WSA				
ALTERNATIVES				
ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE	PROPOSED ACTION (Alternative D - No Wilderness)	ALTERNATIVE A (All Wilderness)	ALTERNATIVE B (Partial Wilderness)	ALTERNATIVE C (Partial Wilderness)
Impacts on Wilderness Values	On the 90,209 acres there would be a reduction of naturalness and solitude opportunities in the long-term. This would be most apparent along the eastern alluvial fans and around Poco, Pete and West Lee Canyons.	All wilderness values in the 90,209 acre WSA would receive Congressional protection. This includes the scenic, deeply incised canyons in the northeast portion of the WSA and the rolling, sparsely vegetated hills in the south and west.	On the 37,477 acres designated, the areas's best scenery, naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would be retained. Lands with more moderate wilderness values also would be protected. This includes the scenic, deeply incised canyons in the northeast part of the WSA and the rolling, sparsely vegetated hills to the west. On the 52,732 acres not designated wilderness, there would be a reduction of naturalness and opportunities for solitude in the long term.	On the 20,522 acres designated, the area's best scenery, naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would be retained. This includes the scenic, deeply incised canyons in the northeast portion of the WSA. There would be a reduction of naturalness and opportunities for solitude on the 69,687 acres not designated wilderness.

TABLE 2-4

SUMMARY OF IMPACTS
JOB PEAK WSA

ALTERNATIVES

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE	PROPOSED ACTION (Alternative D - No Wilderness)	ALTERNATIVE A (All Wilderness)	ALTERNATIVE B (Partial Wilderness)	ALTERNATIVE C (Partial Wilderness)
Impacts on Motorized Recreation Use	Recreational ORV use would increase to about 580 visitor days annually in the foreseeable future.	Recreational ORV use of 100 visitor days would be foregone annually. The im- pact of shifting this use to other public lands would be negligible.	On the 37,477 acres designated, ORV use would be eliminated and 60 visitor days would foregone annually. The impact of shifting this use to other lands would be negligible.	On the 20,522 acres designated, ORV use would be eliminated and 20 visitor days would be foregone annually. The impact of shifting this use to other public lands would be negligible.
			On the 52,732 acres not designated, ORV use would in- crease to about 460 visitor days annually in the long-term.	On the 69,687 acres not designated, ORV use would increase to about 540 visitor days annually in the long term.
Impacts on Development of Mineral/Energy Resources	Energy and mineral resources would be available for explora- tion and development. Development of a 5 megawatt geothermal power plant is antici- pated.	Exploration for mineral and energy resources would be foregone. Develop- ment of a 5 megawatt geothermal power plant would be foregone.	On the 37,477 acres designated, explora- tion would be foregone. On the 52,732 acres not designated, there would be no impact on exploration or development and a 5 megawatt geo- thermal power plant would be developed.	On the 20,522 acres designated, exploration would be foregone. On the 69,687 acres not designated, there would be no impact on exploration or develop- ment. A 5 megawatt geothermal power plant would be developed.

1 0 1 2

Scale in Miles

Note: This map is a different scale than maps of the other WSA's.



R 37 E

R 38 E

T 23 N

R 36 E

T 22 N

R 35 E

T 21 N

T 20 N

T 19 N

T 18 N

LEGEND



ALTERNATIVE C
PROPOSED ACTION



PRIVATE LANDS



ROADS

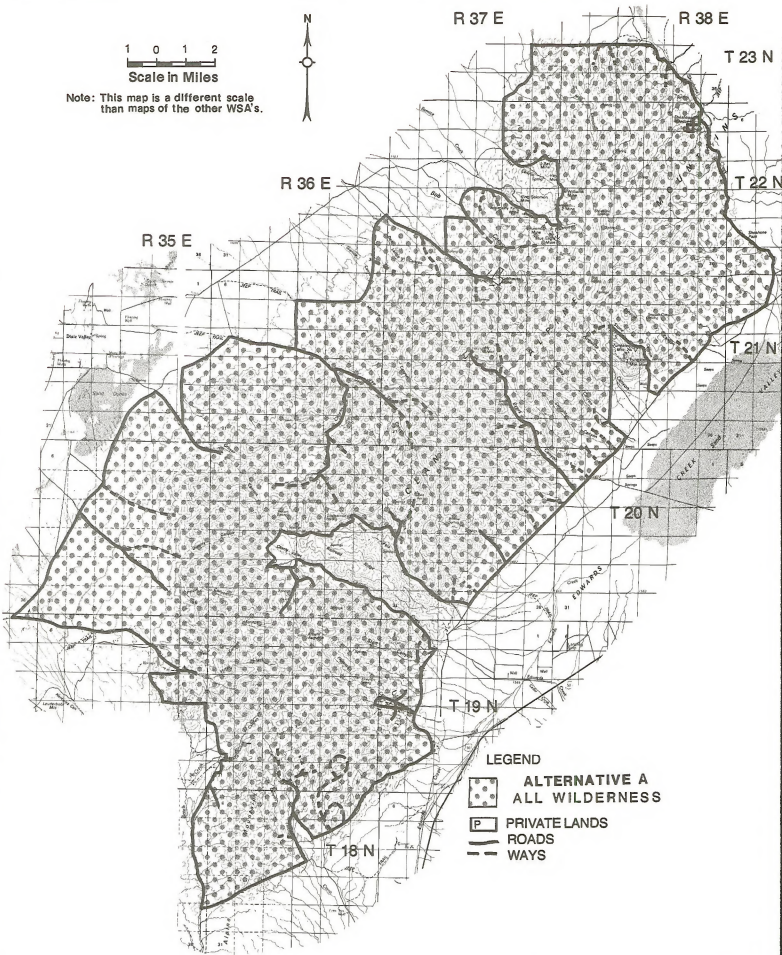


WAYS




WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVES
CLAN ALPINE MTNS. NV-030-102



Note: This map is a different scale than maps of the other WSA's.



LEGEND

-  **ALTERNATIVE A
ALL WILDERNESS**
-  **PRIVATE LANDS**
-  **ROADS**
-  **WAYS**

WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVES
CLAN ALPINE MTNS. NV-030-102

1 0 1 2

Scale in Miles

Note: This map is a different scale than maps of the other WSA's.



R 37 E

R 38 E

T 23 N

R 36 E

T 22 N

R 35 E

T 21 N

T 20 N

T 19 N

T 18 N

LEGEND



ALTERNATIVE B
PARTIAL



PRIVATE LANDS



ROADS



WAYS

WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVES
CLAN ALPINE MTNS. NV-030-102

R 33 E

R 34 E

R 35 E

T 24 N

1 0 1 2

Scale in Miles



T 23 N

T 22 N

T 21 N

LEGEND



ALTERNATIVE D

PROPOSED ACTION



PRIVATE LAND



ROADS



WAYS

WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVES
STILLWATER RANGE NV-030-104

R 33 E

R 34 E

R 35 E

T 24 N

1 0 1 2

Scale in Miles



T 23 N

T 22 N

T 21 N

LEGEND

**ALTERNATIVE A**
ALL WILDERNESS

PRIVATE LAND



ROADS



WAYS

WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVES
STILLWATER RANGE NV-030-104

R 33 E

R 34 E

R 35 E

T 24 N

1 0 1 2
Scale in Miles



T 23 N

T 22 N

T 21 N

LEGEND



**ALTERNATIVE B
PARTIAL**



PRIVATE LAND



ROADS



WAYS

WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVES
STILLWATER RANGE NV-030-104

1 0 1 2

Scale in Miles



R 37 E

R 38 E

T 19 N

T 18 N

T 17 N

T 16 N

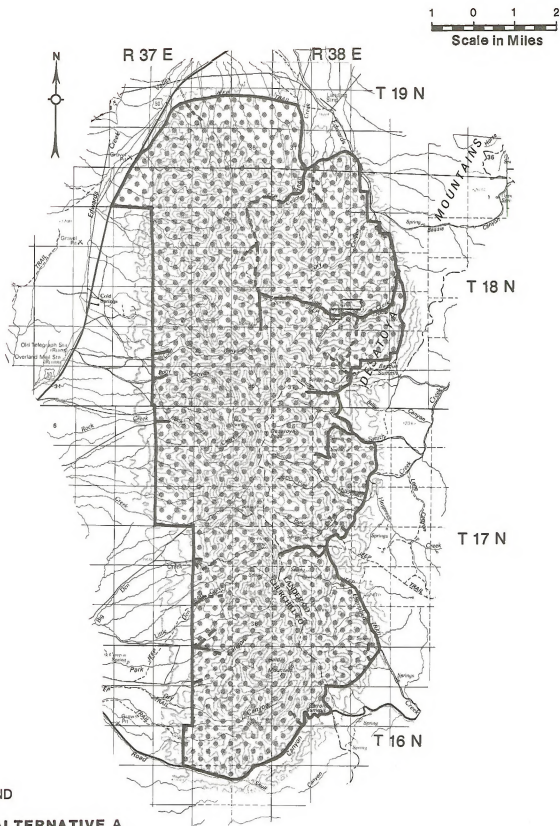
MOUNTAINS

DEATON

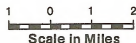
LEGEND

**ALTERNATIVE B**
PROPOSED ACTION**PRIVATE LAND****ROADS****WAYS****WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVES**

DESATOYA NV-030-110



WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVES DESATOYA NV-030-110



R 33 E

R 34 E

T 20 N

R 32 E

T 19 N

T 18 N

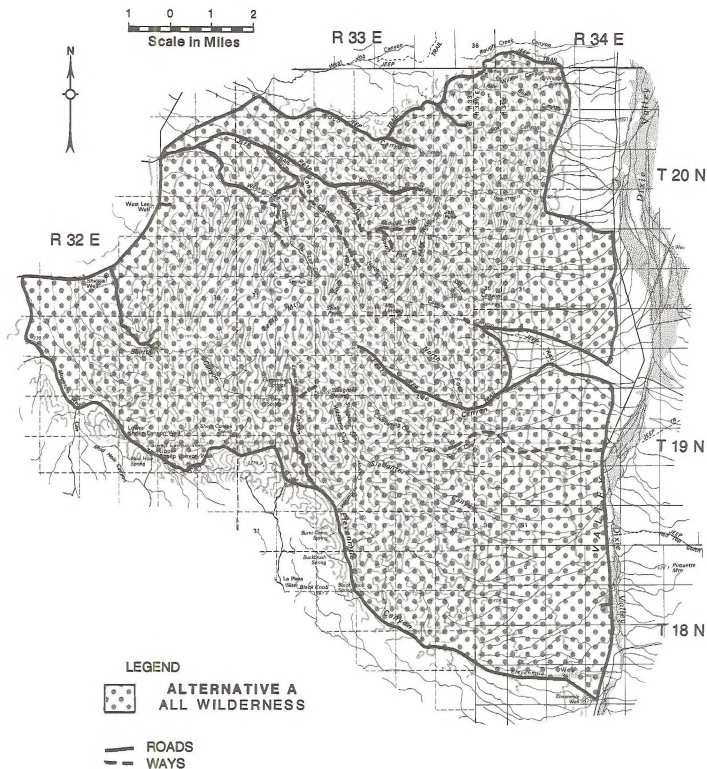
LEGEND



ALTERNATIVE D
PROPOSED ACTION

— ROADS
-- WAYS

WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVES
JOB PEAK NV-030-127



WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVES
JOB PEAK NV-030-127

1 0 1 2
Scale in Miles



R 33 E

R 34 E

R 32 E

T 20 N

T 19 N

T 18 N

LEGEND



ALTERNATIVE C
PARTIAL

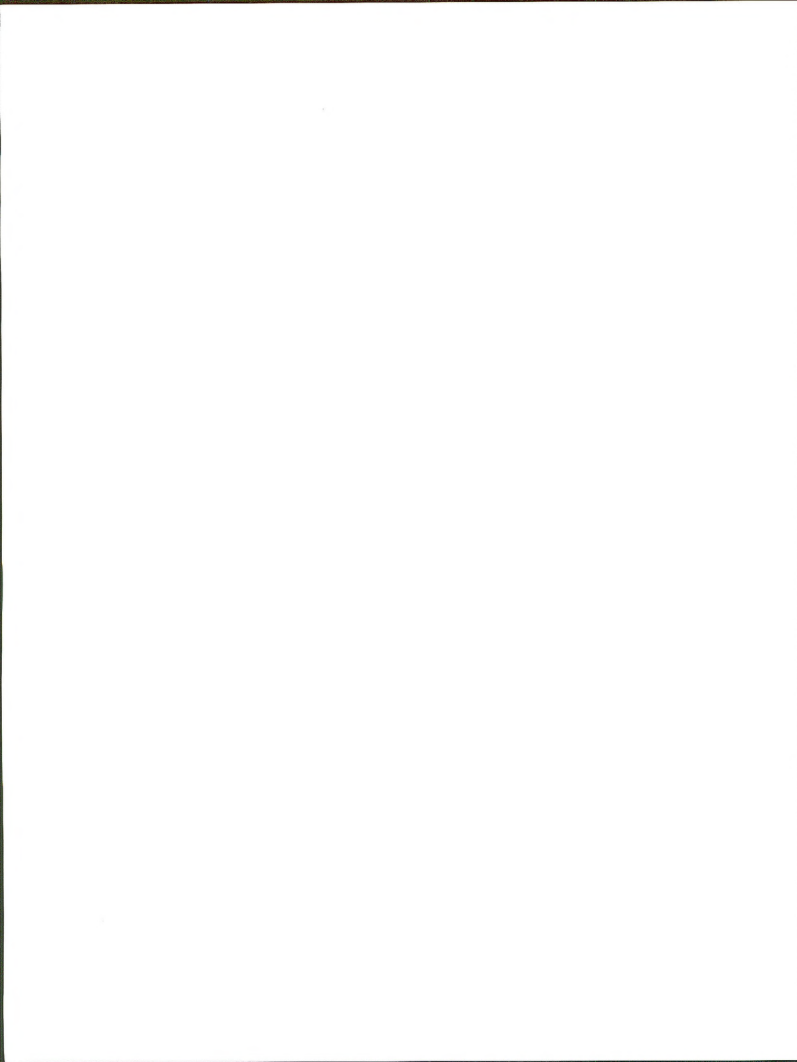
— ROADS
-- WAYS

WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVES
JOB PEAK NV-030-127



CHAPTER THREE

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT



CHAPTER 3

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

CLAN ALPINE MOUNTAINS WSA (NV-030-102)

General Characteristics

The Clan Alpine Mountains WSA lies in the north central portion of Churchill County, Nevada approximately 70 miles by road northeast of Fallon, Nevada. The WSA contains 196,128 acres of public land and is about thirty miles long and ranges from seven to fifteen miles wide. With the exception of Railroad Ridge, most of the northern and central portion of the Clan Alpine mountain range is included in the WSA. The majority of the WSA is mountainous and pinyon-juniper associations cover approximately 50% of the WSA at the middle elevations and upper drainages. Small pockets of riparian vegetation are found along the five perennial streams and in a few canyons with intermittent streams. Scattered stands of mountain mahogany are found at the higher elevations near the pinyon-juniper timberline. Sagebrush and shadscale predominate in the foothills and alluvial fans. Elevation of the area ranges from 3600 feet in Dixie Valley to 9966 feet at the top of Mount Augusta. Access is provided by three major boundary roads and several cherrystem roads. There are no private or State lands within the WSA.

Wilderness Values

Naturalness

The majority of the Clan Alpine WSA is in an essentially natural condition. However, the perceived naturalness of certain portions of the WSA are negatively impacted by human activities which are adjacent to the study area.

Within the WSA itself, evidence of man's activities is minimal with the exception of ways. In an area of over 190,000 acres, man-made intrusions include thirteen developed springs, one small earthen reservoir and one well, one pipeline three miles in length and two other pipelines each less than 200 yards in length, and nine miles of fenceline spread among sixteen separate locations.

Within the WSA, there are 39 miles of ways divided among 35 separate segments. Most of these ways are relatively short, are found around the periphery of the study area and extend into the interior from the boundary.

Fourteen cherrystem roads, totaling 41.3 miles, penetrate the WSA from every side except in the extreme northeastern portion of the area. In addition, three peninsula-like areas excluded from the WSA - Hoyt/Bernice Canyons, Stone Canyon/Tungsten Mountain, Railroad Ridge/Cherry Valley - have eliminated substantial acreages because of either intensive mining activity or connecting cherrystem roads. The effect of these roads and excluded areas upon naturalness is relatively minor due to the highly dissected topography and good vegetative screening in the surrounding vicinity.

The apparent naturalness of approximately 4500 acres in Camp Creek has been affected by firewood cutting and associated jeep trail formation.

Mining activity in areas adjacent to the study area may be both seen and heard inside the WSA. This is particularly true in the areas around Bernice and Hoyt Canyons and to a somewhat lesser extent around Dyer and Stoney Canyons.

Solitude

The size (196,128 acres) of the study area is quite conducive to outstanding opportunities for solitude. The Clan Alpine Mountains WSA is about thirty miles long and ranges from seven to fifteen miles in width.

Most of the WSA is highly dissected with over twenty named canyons and dozens of unnamed ones winding their way through the study area. In general, the area may be characterized as rugged, mountainous and possessing excellent topographic screening.

Vegetative screening varies widely in the area. Along the alluvial fans and in the higher elevations screening is minimal. Here, low growing plants such as low sagebrush, rabbitbrush, shadscale (on the fans) and various grasses predominate. Pinyon-juniper associations cover approximately 50% of the WSA at the middle elevations and upper drainages. Small pockets of riparian vegetation are found along the perennial streams and in a few canyons with intermittent streams. Likewise, scattered stands of mountain mahogany are found at the higher elevations near timberline. In these locations, screening is good to excellent.

Opportunities for a visitor to find a secluded spot are closely related to topographic and vegetative screening. The middle elevations of the WSA afford the best opportunities to experience a sense of seclusion and solitude due to the deeply incised terrain and the excellent vegetative screening. The small alluvial fans found along the east and west boundaries offer virtually no opportunity for a visitor to find a secluded spot.

Secluded locations would be somewhat more difficult to find at the higher elevations than at the middle elevations, due to the lack of vegetative screening. However, the numerous interesting peaks and natural features scattered throughout this area would likely cause use of this portion of the WSA to be dispersed, thus having a positive effect upon a visitor's sense of seclusion. Coupled with the generally good topographic screening found here, users of the area should be able to find secluded spots with only minor difficulty.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Day hiking opportunities are good due to the numerous interesting canyons and attractive features at the middle elevations. Game trails can be found

in many of the major drainages and can be used as travel routes. Areas of dense vegetation may present a challenge to hikers, but it would still be possible to complete an interesting trip in one day.

Backpacking, horseback riding and camping opportunities are excellent. The WSA's main ridge line is over thirty miles long. Several peaks are over 8,000' in elevation. The terrain is diverse, the surroundings quite scenic and shade and water are generally available. The rugged topography and large size of the study area provides a challenging environment for these activities and lengthy trips into the area would be quite possible. Numerous scenic camping spots are located throughout the unit.

Deer hunting is fair to good, however, populations are relatively low. Horse Creek has been stocked with rainbow and brown trout and fishing is fair to good.

Approximately eight miles of high elevation ridges around Mount Augusta offer fair to good opportunities for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing for three to four months a year.

Sightseeing, bird watching, nature study and photography opportunities all are excellent within the WSA. The landscape is quite diverse and contains a number of interesting, attractive features including deep, dry washes and intermittent stream beds, five perennial streams, gently undulating high ridges, steep mountain peaks, isolated springs and small riparian areas, and colorful geologic formations. The overall character of the study area is extremely scenic and its large size provides a vast expanse in which several different types of landscapes are found.

A variety of animals including mountain lion, mule deer, sage grouse, golden eagles, prairie falcons and wild horses can be seen in the WSA.

Special Features

The high scenic quality of the area is considered to be a special feature. From atop the ridgeline of the Clan Alpine Mountains the Sierra Nevada can be seen 100 miles to the west. The New Pass and Desatoya Ranges lie to the east in front of the Toiyabe Range, rising behind them 40 miles away. These broad vistas greatly enhance the feeling of isolation and solitude within the WSA. There are also numerous canyons, geologic formations, ridges and other spots throughout the interior of the WSA which are quite scenic. Combined with the large size of the area, impressive views are frequently available to persons traveling inside the study area. The northern end of the WSA contains colorful rocks and interesting structures exposed along nearly vertical fault scarps.

The trout fishery of Horse Creek is a special feature that is found in very few drainages in this part of Nevada.

Also found in the area are small stands of mountain mahogany which are a unique vegetative type found in only a few mountain ranges in this portion of Nevada.

The area contains mule deer, bands of wild horses and their primary predator, the mountain lion, as well as a wide diversity of smaller wildlife. Desert bighorn sheep were reintroduced into the WSA in 1986.

Recreation

Traditional forms of recreation such as sightseeing, driving for pleasure on roads and ways, camping, hunting, hiking, photography and nature study occur within the Clan Alpine Mountain WSA. Virtually all recreation use in the unit occurs on weekends and holidays and much of it is associated with motor vehicle use. It is estimated that 2026 visitor days are spent in the WSA yearly, of which 566 are associated with deer and chukar hunting. The remaining 1460 days are spent in other recreational pursuits.

Mineral and Energy Resources

The Clan Alpine Mountains WSA is located in the central portion of the Clan Alpine Mountains, a typical block faulted range of the Basin and Range province. The oldest rocks exposed in the range are late Triassic sedimentary rocks which crop out in a central horst structure. Jurassic gabbroic rocks and Cretaceous granitic rocks intrude the older sedimentary rocks. Tertiary volcanic flows, tuffs, and welded tuffs or rhyolitic to dacitic composition crop out to the north and south of the central horst.

The metallic mineral deposit types within the Clan Alpine WSA are metal-bearing epithermal vein deposits and contact metamorphic skarn deposits (USDI, GEM, 1983). The skarn mineralization is associated with Cretaceous intrusive bodies in contact with Late Triassic siltstone. Gold, silver, tungsten and antimony have been produced from the two major mining districts in the WSA. Most of these deposits were developed underground, which, because of higher operating cost, may preclude future development. The possibility of a large disseminated gold deposit does exist, however, based on the geologic setting and the presence of pathfinder minerals such as antimony and mercury.

No active mines of any significance are located within the WSA, however exploration in areas which have been cherrystemmed out of the WSA, particularly in the Bernice/Hoyt Canyon areas, Dyer Canyon, Tungsten Mountain, and Florence Canyon areas, is active.

The entire WSA is considered to have moderate to high favorability with a low to high confidence level for metallic mineral resources. There are 451 mining claims in the WSA, of which 65 are pre-FLPMA. These claims cover about 9,020 acres. No known nonmetallic mineral deposits exist within the WSA and favorability for such is considered low (USDI, GEM, 1983).

No geothermal deposits of any significance are known to exist within the WSA, however, the region has high prospective value. Six geothermal leases covering about 5,530 acres are located predominately along the northwest margin of the WSA. Known geothermal deposits exist just north and west of the WSA in the McCoy and Dixie Valley areas. Exploration activities on the west and north margins of the WSA have been active in the past. Results of these efforts appear disappointing. The range front areas have high to moderate favorability ratings for the occurrence of geothermal resources with varying levels of confidence. The interior is rated moderate with very low confidence.

There are no known oil and gas deposits within the WSA or other indications of such. This area is outside the petroliferous miogeosyncline of eastern Nevada and Utah. Interest in oil and gas occurrence within the intermountain basin west of the WSA has been high.

Several hundred miles of seismic line have been run in the general area and approximately 118,000 acres of land are under lease within the WSA. The leases are located along the margins and in the northern and central interior areas. No drilling for oil and gas has occurred to date. Favorability for the occurrence of oil and gas is considered low in the margin areas and very low in the interior (USDI, GEM, 1983).

Strategic and critical minerals known to occur within the WSA include antimony, tungsten, lead, mercury, copper, and silver.

Livestock

Portions of the three allotments, accounting for 5334 AUMs of use, are located in the WSA and three different operators run cattle in these allotments. All three allotments are grazed during the spring, summer and fall. Allotment Management Plans (AMPs) are proposed for two of these allotments. Under these plans, eleven miles of gap fences would be constructed in order to enhance distribution of livestock use and improve the condition of vegetative communities. Existing range improvements include thirteen developed springs, one reservoir and one well, one pipeline three miles in length and two other pipelines each less than 200 yards in length, and nine miles of fenceline (much of it gap fence) spread among sixteen separate locations.

Woodland Products

Within the WSA there are approximately 10,850 acres of pinyon-juniper woodland, containing about 54,250 cords of wood, which are suitable for harvest. Roughly 5,700 acres of this total are found in the area around Bench Creek and Camp Creek, while the remaining acreage is scattered throughout the study area in parcels ranging from 10 to 445 acres in

size. Approximately 29 percent of the annual allowable harvest of the area studied under the Lahontan RMP is contained in the Clan Alpine Mountains WSA. Residents of Fallon collect pine nuts in the WSA and cut Christmas trees in the cherrystemmed area around Railroad Ridge, south of War Canyon. The Camp Creek woodcutting area, established in 1975, is used by area residents as the primary source of fuelwood in the Lahontan RMP area.

Wildlife Habitat

All of the WSA except for the alluvial fans is yearlong deer range. These lands also support mountain lion and sage grouse. Sage grouse strutting grounds are found around Cherry Valley, however, most of this critical habitat is located outside the WSA in the cherrystemmed area west of Railroad Ridge. Horse Creek has been stocked with rainbow and brown trout, however, the stream is small and could withstand only limited fishing pressure. Desert bighorn sheep, once native to the area, were reintroduced to the WSA in the vicinity of Horse Creek during the summer of 1986.

STILLWATER RANGE WSA (NV-030-104)

General Characteristics

The Stillwater Range WSA lies in the north central portion of Churchill County, Nevada, approximately 40 road miles northeast of Fallon, Nevada.

The WSA contains 94,607 acres of public land and is about sixteen miles long and nine to eleven miles wide. There are 620 acres of private in-holdings in the WSA. The WSA includes roughly the central third of the Stillwater Range. The majority of the area is generally mountainous and pinyon-juniper associations predominate in the highest elevations. Small pockets of riparian vegetation are located in canyons where springs are found. There are no perennial streams in the area. Shadscale and sagebrush are found on the alluvial fans with greasewood and other low shrubs interspersed in the lower reaches of the mountainous terrain. Low sagebrush is found in most open areas at the higher elevations. Elevation of the area ranges from approximately 3400 feet in Dixie Valley to 7615 feet at the top of Eagle Peak. Good access is provided by the east and west boundary roads.

Wilderness Values

Naturalness

The central mountainous portion of the WSA is in an essentially natural condition and man-made impacts are virtually non-existent in this area.

The areas surrounding this core are more heavily impacted. Fifteen separate cherrystemmed roads totaling 27.5 miles and eleven separate vehicle ways totaling 21.5 miles exist in these areas, almost all of which are related to mining activity. Three miles of fenceline and one well are also located in the WSA. Old mining activity is visible in the area north of Eagle Mountain and impacts associated with current mineral exploration and development, both inside and just outside the WSA, are visible in at least eight other locations. Grandfathered mining activities have expanded their areas of operation in several locations, particularly around Silver Hill and Cox, Fondaway, Alameda, Big Elk, Wood and Mill Canyons.

Solitude

Opportunities for solitude vary considerably within the WSA. The alluvial fans provide no topographic and only minimal vegetative screening. The lower reaches of the mountainous terrain consist of moderately dissected canyons with only limited vegetative screening.

The sheer number of roads and ways, mining activity and lack of topographic and vegetative screening adversely affect solitude.

Solitude opportunities are good to excellent in the central, mountainous portion of the range, particularly north of Fondaway Canyon where the single ridgeline to the south spreads out into a more highly dissected configuration. Pinyon/juniper associations predominate in this area.

The presence of the B-20 (Lone Rock) bombing range adjacent to and immediately west of the WSA has a detrimental impact on the solitude opportunities in the area, particularly on the west side of the WSA. Navy aircraft also make bombing and electronic warfare flights down Dixie Valley immediately east of the WSA. Aircraft often make low level flights up the canyons of the WSA to cross from one bombing range to the other. This unit and the Job Peak WSA are subject to more low level tactical flights than the other two WSAs of the Resource Area.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Recreational opportunities are not diverse, are of moderate quality, and are primarily limited to the central portion of the WSA. There are few points of interest which would attract a visitor. Water is scarce and a visitor would find it difficult to avoid the impacts of human activity should he stray from the central core of the area. There are no perennial streams in the WSA. Backpacking, horseback riding, hunting, and sightseeing opportunities are present, but cannot be termed outstanding.

Special Features

No threatened or endangered species are known to occur within the WSA, although *Phacelia glaberrima* (smooth phacelia), listed as a species of special concern, is found in the southeast portion of the study area.

The fault scarp on the east side of the WSA along the base of the mountains is a result of the 1954 earthquake. It is easily seen and in places the earth has been displaced six to seven feet.

The old mining towns of Shady Run, Dixie and Coppereid are all located just outside the WSA boundary. With the exception of the stone ruins of three buildings at the site of Coppereid, virtually all traces of these towns have been obliterated.

The area experienced prehistoric aboriginal occupation and was extensively surveyed in 1979 by a doctoral candidate from the University of Michigan. Some surface collection was done, however, no major cultural sites were located. Approximately 25 minor aboriginal sites were identified.

The presence of mule deer, mountain lions, golden eagles and various other raptors is an important ecological value. Approximately 10-15 wild horses also are present in the study area.

Recreation

Traditional forms of recreation such as sightseeing, driving for pleasure on roads and ways, camping, hiking and hunting occur within the Stillwater Range WSA. Virtually all recreation use in the unit occurs on weekends and holidays and is largely associated with motor vehicle use. Recreational use is low. It is estimated that 520 visitor days are spent in the WSA yearly, of which 231 are associated with deer and chukar hunting. The remaining 289 days are spent in other recreational pursuits.

Mineral and Energy Resources

The Stillwater Range WSA is located within the central portion of the Stillwater Range, a typical block faulted range of the Basin and Range province. Complexly folded and faulted clastic sedimentary and volcanic rocks of Late Triassic to Jurassic age are exposed in the northeast and southwest portions of the range. These rocks have been intruded by granitic and gabbroic rocks. The older rocks are overlain by Tertiary volcanic flows, tuffs, and welded tuffs or rhyolitic composition. Northeast trending normal faults of Quaternary age are ubiquitous and complicate the geology greatly.

Much of the metallic mineralization is associated with the older sedimentary rocks which acted as host for epithermal vein deposits, explosion breccias,

and contact metamorphic deposits. These rocks are well exposed within this portion of the range and offer a unique opportunity for exploration and development. The abundance of Mesozoic and Tertiary intrusions in this area of favorable host rocks suggests the potential occurrence of large disseminated gold deposits. These types of deposits are likely exploration targets as opposed to smaller epithermal vein deposits.

Active mines were cherry-picked from the WSA at the time of the intensive inventory, however, exploration continues and grandfathered activities have expanded into the WSA around Fondaway Canyon, Big Elk Canyon, Silver Hill, Cox Canyon, Wood Canyon, Mill Canyon and Alameda Canyon. Further expansion is likely.

The entire WSA is considered to have moderate to high favorability for the occurrence of metallic minerals and is believed to be one of the best "...potential areas for future metallic mineral finds of all the WSAs studied in the Basin and Range province..." (USDI, GEM, 1983). There are 594 mining claims in the WSA, of which 98 are pre-FLPMA. These claims cover about 11,880 acres.

Nonmetallic minerals within the WSA include fluorspar, limestone, and sand and gravel. The widespread occurrence of limestone and sand and gravel within the region together with the poor proximity to a known market reduce their worth to a minimal value. No material sale sites occur within the WSA. Minor production of fluorspar (1,900 tons) has occurred in the Cox Canyon area. Fluorspar occurrences in the White Cloud and Shady Run districts have some potential. Overall, favorability for the occurrence of economic nonmetallic mineral deposits is considered low (USDI, GEM, 1983).

Geothermal deposits are located along the eastern boundary of the WSA and are coincident with the range front fault. A discovery of geothermal resources has been made northeast of the WSA in the Lamb Ranch area of Dixie Valley and all necessary permits for construction of a 62 megawatt geothermal power plant have been obtained by Oxbow Geothermal Corporation. It is unknown at this time when this plant will be operational. South of this discovery, the area just outside of the eastern boundary of the WSA has been explored by Thermal Power Company, the results being inconclusive. In general, the development of geothermal resources would be restricted to the alluvial fans at the margins of the WSA and would not likely occur within the rugged terrain of the interior. The interface of the mountain range and alluvial fan coincides with the range front fault and associated geothermal reservoirs. The superposition of these features creates an ideal environment for the development of geothermal resources.

The range front areas of the WSA (26,900 acres) have been rated as highly favorable for the occurrence of geothermal resources. The interior areas (67,700 acres) are rated as moderate. Approximately 11,000 acres of lands have been leased for geothermal resources, predominately on the eastern boundary.

Oil and gas resources are not known to occur within the WSA, an area considered outside the petroliferous miogeosynclinal province (USDI, GEM, 1983). The east and west margins of the WSA, part of the Dixie Valley and Carson Sink alluvial basins, have been leased for oil and gas as well as some of the mountainous terrain south of Fondaway Canyon. About 18,000 acres are currently under lease. The margin areas (16,500 acres) have been rated as having moderate favorability for the occurrence of oil and gas with a low level of confidence. The majority of the WSA is rated low favorability with a high degree of confidence (USDI, GEM, 1983). Some exploration drilling and seismic work has been conducted in Dixie Valley and the Carson Sink with no obvious success.

Strategic and critical minerals known to occur within the WSA include tungsten, copper, lead and fluorspar.

Livestock

The Hare Canyon and Mississippi Canyon allotments lie totally within the WSA and portions of four other allotments extend into the study area. These account for about 2035 AUMs of use. Four different operators run cattle in these allotments. The White Cloud and Boyer Ranch allotments are used primarily in the summer and fall while the Copper Kettle allotment in the extreme northwest of WSA is utilized in all seasons except winter.

The Dixie Valley, Hare Canyon and Mississippi Canyon allotments are all used by the same operator. Cattle also graze in these allotments every season except winter. The grazing quality for this WSA varies primarily because of the terrain, however, it may be characterized generally as being fair to good. There are no pipelines, spring developments or other range improvements inside the WSA other than one well and three miles of fence line spread among six separate areas.

Woodland Products

Some limited amount of pine nut gathering occurs in the WSA, however, all woodlands found in the study area have been classed as non-productive in nature.

Wildlife Habitat

About 26,000 acres in the central, mountainous portion of the WSA are yearlong deer range. Mountain lions also use this habitat. The WSA is historical range for Desert Bighorn sheep and the Nevada Department of Wildlife reintroduced them into the areas around Hare and Mississippi Canyons in the summers of 1985 and 1986.

Lands

There are two parcels of private land along the WSA boundary. Within the WSA itself there are 21 parcels of private land, with 20 of these adjacent to each other. The general location of these lands is as follows:

T. 23 N., R. 35 E., Sec. 21 (one parcel) 67.67 acres

T. 23 N., R. 34 E., Secs. 19, 20, 29, 30 (twenty parcels) 552.11 acres

Total 619.78 acres

The 67-acre parcel does not have roaded access.

DESATOYA MOUNTAINS (NV-030-110/060-288)

General Characteristics

The 51,262 acre Desatoya Mountains WSA is seventeen miles long, ranges from four to six miles wide, and includes the west-central portion of the mountain range. It lies along the Churchill County - Lander County line, with the majority of the WSA found in the southeast corner of Churchill County, Nevada. Fallon, Nevada, is approximately 60 miles by road to the west and Austin, Nevada, lies 50 miles to the east. There are 120 acres of private inholdings, which already have a means of access. Except for the extreme northern end of the WSA, the unit is mountainous in character. Pinyon-juniper associations cover roughly 50% of the WSA in the lower and middle elevations and in places extend well onto the alluvial fan. Riparian vegetation is found along the eleven perennial streams in the WSA as well as along several intermittent stream channels. Isolated stands of mountain mahogany are found in the upper elevations, particularly on the west side. The main ridge is vegetated by grasses and low growing scrub species such as low sage. At the far north end of the study area the alluvial fan supports black sage and shadscale communities.

Elevations range from 5400 feet along the fan on the far north end of the WSA to 9973 feet at the top of Desatoya Peak, the highest peak in Churchill County. The northern and southern boundary roads as well as smaller dirt roads just outside the western boundary provide good access to the WSA.

Wilderness Values

Naturalness

With few exceptions, the WSA is in an extremely natural state. Mining is non-existent both in the study area and along its boundaries and the only man-made features found in the unit are fences, spring developments, and cherrystemmed roads and ways.

A total of two spring developments and three watering troughs are found in the WSA, all of them located along the Topia Creek drainage. Approximately four miles of fenceline are spread among four areas, with the longest being a 1 1/2 mile segment just west of Cedar Creek in the extreme northern part of the study area.

Roughly eight miles of ways, divided among twelve separate segments, are located in the WSA and the vast majority of these are in extremely poor condition.

A total of 12 miles of cherrystem roads extend into the WSA and are divided among 13 separate roads segments, most of them relatively short. All of these roads have relatively minor impacts upon the naturalness of the WSA. They are of extremely low standard and can be seen only from the areas immediately around them due to both good vegetative and topographic screening.

The most intrusive of these roads is the Topia Creek Road which is by far the largest cherrystem road segment in the study area, extending approximately 4.8 miles from the eastern boundary through 40 acres of private lands up to the two spring developments along the ridgetop near the Cedar Creek drainage.

In summary, the Desatoya Mountains WSA remains in a natural state to an exceptional degree. There are no mining operations or prospects within the study area. Range improvements are few in number and scattered throughout the unit. Ways and cherrystem roads constitute the only substantial impacts upon naturalness and even those impacts are relatively unnoticeable due to the wide spacing between them and the general prevalence of natural screening.

Only along the ridgetop where the Topia and Cedar Creek drainages meet does the impact of a road and way affect the apparent naturalness of the area. Even then, these impacts are minor compared to those found in the other three study areas and they are substantially unnoticeable in the area as a whole.

Solitude

Outstanding solitude is attainable throughout the WSA, especially west of the main ridgeline. The west side is characterized by deep confined canyons, many of them with steep cliffs and rock outcrops which open into small basins at the higher elevations. Most of these are lined with aspen, willow, wild rose, Indian paintbrush, ferns, various small cacti, and other wildflowers. Isolated stands of mountain mahogany combine with a general pinyon/juniper cover on the steep hillsides away from the drainages to provide excellent topographic and vegetative screening. East of the main ridgeline the topography is more rolling and not as highly dissected, however, topographic screening is still good due to the large number of drainages in the area. Riparian areas are also present and provide good vegetative screening. The main ridge itself and the higher elevations on both sides of it from Carroll Summit to Topia Creek are covered with grasses and low growing shrub species. Scattered stands of pinyon pine and juniper are found at the lower elevations. North of Topia Creek pinyon/juniper associations predominate in relatively thick stands.

Unlike the airspace over the other three study areas, very little of the airspace over the Desatoya Mountains WSA is restricted. The WSA is situated roughly fifteen miles east of Dixie Valley, the main corridor used by naval aircraft during their training missions. Consequently, impacts of this activity upon solitude are less than in the other three WSAs.

In general, a visitor to the area would have little difficulty locating a secluded spot and would have many opportunities to experience a feeling of outstanding solitude.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Recreational opportunities are outstanding both from a qualitative and quantitative standpoint. There is a wide diversity of opportunities and the individual opportunities themselves, such as day hiking, backpacking, camping, hunting, horseback riding and cross-country skiing, provide a high quality experience in virtually every case. Comparatively, the Desatoya Mountains WSA probably provides some of the best primitive recreational opportunities in central and western Nevada.

Sightseeing, nature study, bird watching and photography opportunities all are excellent within the WSA. The landscape is extremely varied and contains a large number of interesting features including steep canyon walls, cliffs, rock outcrops, perennial streams and a long undulating ridgeline. The lower part of Big Dens Canyon is a narrow, twisting, vertical walled defile with colorful rock spires along its length culminating in a 30' waterfall and a steep climb in order to gain access to the upper canyon. Several other canyons, including Little Dens, Willow, Rock and Cold Springs, contain additional interesting geologic features. Riparian areas support complex plant communities. Aspen, willow, wild rose, gooseberries, elderberries, Indian paintbrush, monkshood, ferns, various small cacti and numerous other wildflowers are found along these drainages. Mountain mahogany stands are found at higher elevations. A variety of animals including mountain lion, mule deer, gray fox, chukar, sage grouse, red-tailed hawks, golden eagles, pika and wild horses can be seen in the WSA.

Views from the ridgetop are outstanding. The Toiyabe Range and Arc Dome 40 miles to the east across the Smith Creek and Reese River Valleys are clearly visible as are the Clan Alpine and Stillwater Ranges to the west. On a clear day, the Sierra Nevada, over 100 miles to the west, may be seen.

Special Features

Ecologically, the study area is both diverse and complex. As discussed earlier, several distinct vegetative communities are found between the base of the range at 6300' and the top of Desatoya Peak at 9973' - sagebrush-greasewood, pinyon-juniper, mountain mahogany, and riparian

areas in both perennial and intermittent stream channels. Indeed, the fact that there are eleven perennial streams and nearly a dozen intermittent ones in this 51,262 acre WSA indicates the importance of riparian areas to the overall ecologic balance of the study area.

Approximately 100-125 wild horses are estimated to live within the study area.

The area is highly scenic. Views looking outside the study area toward the Shoshone and Toiyabe Ranges on the east and the Clan Alpine, Stillwater and Sierra Nevada Ranges on the west are outstanding. There are numerous canyons, ridges, riparian areas and rock outcrops throughout the interior of the WSA which are extremely scenic themselves. The Big Dens and Willow Creek areas are well known locally for their scenic quality.

A number of historic and prehistoric activities occurred around the edge of the study area. The Cold Springs Pony express station (1860-61) is located just outside the WSA. An Overland Stage station ruins is located on the Edwards Creek Road. Portions of the western and northern boundaries of the study area follow the old pony express and stage routes. Some historians believe that pony express riders occasionally used Pony Canyon to cross the Desatoyas in periods of good weather.

Woodcarvings made by Basque sheepherders on aspen trees during the early 1900's can still be found in several drainages.

Indians are known to have attacked the Cold Springs pony express station from open camps in the western foothills of the Desatoyas. They used the area as both a hunting ground and a source of pine nuts, berries and herbs. On many small knolls throughout the area, but particularly on the west side, one can still find lithic scatters, evidence of use of the area by its former inhabitants. A pictograph site and Topia Cave, a significant archaeological site probably associated with periods of hunting and pine nut gathering, are found along the Topia Creek drainage. A total of 15 aboriginal and four historic sites have been identified to date.

Recreation

Traditional forms of recreation such as sightseeing, camping, hunting, hiking, horseback riding, photography and nature study occur within the Desatoya Mountains WSA. Virtually all recreation use in the unit occurs on weekends and holidays. Because of the small number of roads and ways motor vehicle use is limited and that which does occur is focused on the east side of the unit during deer hunting season. It is estimated that 1241 visitor days are spent in the WSA yearly, of which 386 are associated with deer and chukar hunting. The remaining 855 days are spent in other recreational pursuits.

Mineral and Energy Resources

The Desatoya Mountains WSA is located in the western half of the Desatoya Mountains, a typical block faulted range of the Basin and Range province. The oldest rocks exposed in the WSA are Miocene volcanic flows, tuffs, and welded tuffs of rhyolitic to latitic composition. A sequence of lacustrine sedimentary rocks comprised of pebbly mudstone, diatomaceous shale and tuffaceous siltstone and sandstone was deposited coevally with the volcanics. The oldest structures exposed in the Desatoya Mountains are folds in Miocene sedimentary rocks, which together with some high angle reverse faults suggest a compressional tectonic event sometime in the Middle Tertiary. Normal faults of Late Tertiary age trend northeasterly and northwesterly within the WSA and form the western range front fault.

There are no mining claims in the WSA. No known metallic mineral deposits are located within the WSA, however, the Gold Basin and Eastgate mining districts are located near the southeast and south boundaries, respectively. Production from these districts total approximately \$200,000, chiefly from precious metals.

The western two-thirds (38,000 acres) of the WSA has been rated as having low favorability with a low confidence level for the occurrence of metallic minerals. The eastern one-third (13,000 acres) has been rated moderate with a low confidence level. The moderate rating is based on the proximity of the Gold Basin and Eastgate mining districts, the structural setting, and the presence of two geochemical anomalies.

No known nonmetallic mineral deposits are located within the WSA. Some potential exists for a zeolite deposit within the Miocene lacustrine sedimentary rocks. Overall, favorability for the occurrence of nonmetallic minerals is considered low with a low confidence level.

A small materials site (40 acres) has been granted to the Nevada Department of Transportation in the extreme southeast corner of the study area (S1/2 SE1/4 NW1/4 and N1/2 NE1/4 SW1/4, Sec. 18, T. 16 N., R. 38 E.), although no extraction of materials has yet taken place in the 30 acres north of the Carroll Summit highway. This grant was made in 1935.

There are no known geothermal deposits located in the WSA. Hot springs located east of the WSA in Smith Creek Valley occur along a structure that extends into the WSA. Temperatures as great as 205 degrees F. have been recorded (USDI, GEM, 1983). No lands have been leased for geothermal resources within the WSA and no exploration requiring a permit has been conducted. Favorability for the occurrence of geothermal resources is considered moderate in the eastern one-third (13,000 acres) of the WSA and low within the western two-thirds (38,000 acres). The confidence level for these ratings is very low (USDI, GEM, 1983).

No known oil and gas deposits are located within the WSA. There are 2,112 acres leased for oil and gas exploration in the far northern part of the WSA. Based on the geologic environment and the lack of surface indications, favorability for the occurrence of oil and gas is considered very low with a low confidence level (USDI, GEM, 1983).

No critical or strategic minerals are known to occur within the WSA.

Livestock

Portions of five allotments, accounting for 2,214 AUMs of use, are located in the WSA and operated by three different permittees. All five allotments are utilized primarily in the spring, summer and fall. The future quality of grazing is expected to remain the same. A total of two spring developments and three watering troughs are found in the WSA, all of them located along the Topia Creek drainage. Approximately four miles of fenceline are spread among four areas, with the longest being a 1 1/2 mile segment just west of Cedar Creek in the extreme northern part of the study area.

Woodland Products

Within the WSA there are approximately 2,240 acres of pinyon-juniper, containing about 13,400 cords of wood, which are suitable for timber sales. Roughly 1,100 acres of this total are found on the west side of the WSA between Dry and Willow Canyons, while the remaining acreage is scattered throughout the study area in parcels ranging from two to 300 acres in size. Approximately six percent of the annual allowable harvest of the RMP area is contained in the Desatoya Mountains WSA.

Wildlife Habitat

About 37,500 acres in the upper elevations of the WSA are yearlong deer range and mountain lion habitat. The entire WSA is sage grouse habitat, although lands along the east side of the range provide the most important habitat. The WSA is historical range for Desert Bighorn sheep. The Nevada Department of Wildlife reintroduced them into the areas around Big Dens and Willow Creek Canyons in the summer of 1986.

Cutthroat Trout (probably the Humboldt strain) are present in Edwards Creek and possibly Smith Creek. (Positive identification of specimens taken from these creeks has not been completed). Brook trout are found in Big Dens Creek. All of these fish are quite small however, and the streams could withstand only limited fishing pressure. The numerous riparian areas provide excellent habitat for a large variety of bird species including goshawk, great horned owls, hummingbirds and other passerine birds.

Lands

There are two parcels of private land forming a portion of the WSA boundary. Along Topia Creek there are 120 acres of private land in NW1/4SE1/4 and SE1/4NE1/4 Sec. 20 and SW1/4NW1/4 Sec. 21, T. 18 N., R. 38 E., which are inside the WSA. These are owned by a local rancher and have road access. It is unlikely that significant nonconforming developments would take place on this land.

JOB PEAK WSA
(NV-030-127)

General Characteristics

The 90,209 acre Job Peak WSA varies from five to sixteen miles long and five to fifteen miles wide. It includes roughly the southern quarter of the Stillwater Range and lies in the central portion of Churchill County, Nevada, about 30 miles by road east of Fallon, Nevada. The east-central portion of the WSA is quite rugged and mountainous, while the west-central part of the WSA is more rolling and not as heavily vegetated. Alluvial fans flank the WSA on both the east and west boundaries. Pinyon-juniper associations cover about 7,500 acres of the unit in the middle and upper elevations, primarily on the east side of the WSA. There are intermittent streams in several east-side canyons, however, there are no perennial streams in the WSA. Small areas of riparian vegetation are found there and around springs. The great majority of the WSA is sparsely vegetated with shadscale, sagebrush and various grasses.

This study area's elevation ranges from approximately 3600 feet at the eastern boundary in Dixie Valley to 8785 feet at the top of Job Peak, the highest peak in the Stillwater Range. Access is provided by both the east and west boundary roads. There are no private or State lands within the WSA.

Wilderness Values

Naturalness

The northwest portion of the unit contains a substantial number of human imprints. These include parts of five cherrystem roads totaling 11.8 miles, seven miles of pipeline, six miles of fenceline, seven miles of ways, two borrow pits, three cabins, and a small area of historic mining activity.

The southwest part of the WSA contains five miles of cherrystem roads, a two mile pipeline, a one-half mile long way, a cabin and corral, and almost two dozen small spring developments. Another 4.5 miles of cherrystem roads and 3.5 miles of ways are scattered throughout the remainder of the unit as are another three dozen spring developments.

East of the main ridgeline the WSA remains in an essentially natural condition, both in the mountains and on the alluvial fan.

Solitude

Opportunities for solitude vary considerably within the WSA. Although the size of the area is conducive to outstanding solitude opportunities, topographic and vegetative screening over much of the unit is poor. Only on the east side of the main ridgeline between the northern boundary, west of the Dixie Valley fault scarp and north of East Lee Canyon, does one find good to excellent natural screening and a number of spots in which a visitor can seclude himself from other recreationists. West of the main ridgeline, opportunities are fair to good due to the relatively rugged landscape, but vegetative screening is minimal. South of East Lee Canyon and along the alluvial fans opportunities are poor. All of these opportunities are adversely impacted by the number and frequency of low level military overflights of the area. Navy aircraft make bombing and electronic warfare flights down Dixie Valley immediately east of the WSA and aircraft often make low level flights up the canyons of the WSA either to cross over to the B-20 bombing range in Carson Sink or to return to Fallon NAS. This unit and the Stillwater Range WSA are subject to more low level tactical flights than the other two WSAs in the resource area. Finally, cherrystem roads penetrate deeply into the WSA, particularly the Government Trail Canyon Road, which terminates at the western base of Job Peak and the East Lee Canyon Road which ends at the foot of Shaly Peak.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Recreational opportunities are fairly diverse and of good quality. Activities include day hiking, backpacking, camping, horseback riding, rock climbing, and sightseeing/photography.

These recreational opportunities are primarily found along the east side of the mountain range between the northern boundary and East Lee Canyon. The terrain is more rugged and scenic here than in the remainder of the unit, and while many of these activities may be pursued elsewhere in the WSA, their quality is best on the east side of the WSA.

Special Features

The earthquake fault of 1954, which runs along the base of the mountain range on the east side of the study area, would be of interest to visitors to the area. The herd of approximately 45 Desert Bighorn sheep which have recently have reintroduced to the area constitute another special feature of significance. About 15-20 wild horses live within the unit. The area

experienced prehistoric aboriginal occupation and was extensively surveyed in 1979 by a doctoral candidate from the University of Michigan. Some surface collection was done, however, no major cultural sites were located. Six small aboriginal sites were identified inside the WSA. In addition, Job Peak was and still is considered sacred ground in the religion of the local Toedokado (Tule-Eaters) band of the Northern Paiute Indians.

Recreation

Traditional forms of recreation such as sightseeing, driving for pleasure on roads and ways, camping, hiking and hunting occur within the Job Peak WSA. Virtually all recreation use in the unit occurs on weekends and holidays and is largely associated with motor vehicle use. Recreational use is low. It is estimated that 578 visitor days are spent in the WSA yearly, of which 231 are associated with deer and chukar hunting. The remaining 347 days are spent in other recreational pursuits.

Mineral and Energy Resources

The Job Peak WSA is located within the southern portion of the Stillwater Range, a typical block faulted range of the Basin and Range province. The geology is essentially the same as the Stillwater Range WSA described earlier with the following exceptions. The Late Triassic clastic sedimentary sequence and the Jurassic gabbroic rocks do not crop out within the WSA. Tertiary volcanics and intrusives are the predominate rocks exposed. The volcanics are older and the intrusive rocks younger than those exposed in the Stillwater Range WSA. The Late Triassic sedimentary sequence crops out to the north and south of the WSA and is presumed to underlie the Tertiary volcanics.

Metallic mineralization is associated with the intrusive bodies and occurs as epithermal veins and disseminated sulfides. It is postulated that the contact of the Late Triassic sedimentary sequence and the intrusives at depth may contain mineralization similar to that exposed in the northern Stillwater Range (USDI, GEM, 1983).

Exploration for precious metals is active in the Poco/Job Canyon areas. A large claim block staked on precious metal-bearing veins with wide zones of epithermal alterations has been explored by Oasis Mining. Favorability for the occurrence of metallic minerals within the majority of the Job Peak WSA is considered moderate with a moderate to low confidence level. The occurrence of intrusive bodies in probable contact with favorable host rocks, adjacent known mineralization, and exploration interest in the area is the basis for the moderate rating. The GEM report states that the two WSAs in the Stillwater Range (including Job Peak) are some of the best "...potential areas for future metallic mineral finds of all the WSAs studied in the Basin and Range province..." (USDI, GEM, 1983). There are 235 mining claims in the WSA, of which 12 are pre-FLPMA. These claims cover about 4700 acres.

No known deposits of nonmetallic minerals, with the exception of sand and gravel, exist within the WSA and the favorability for the occurrence of such is considered low (USDI, GEM, 1983). There are two materials sites which have been cherrystemmed out of the study area.

A discovery of geothermal resources within and immediately adjacent to the WSA has not been made to date, however, the geologic environment is similar to the known geothermal areas in the Stillwater Range WSA. Exploration for geothermal resources within the WSA has been active in the past though the results have been disappointing. Hunt Energy Corporation has drilled three deep test wells within or in the vicinity of the WSA with inconclusive results.

The range front areas of the WSA (39,000 acres) have been rated as highly favorable for the occurrence of geothermal resources. The interior areas (51,200 acres) are rated as moderate. Approximately 15,200 acres have been leased for geothermal resources predominately in the southeast corner of the WSA.

Oil and gas resources are not known to occur within the WSA, an area outside the petroliferous miogeosynclinal province (GEM, 1983). The east and west margins of the WSA, part of the Dixie Valley and Carson Sink alluvial basins, have been rated as moderately favorable with low confidence for the occurrence of oil and gas. The remainder of the WSA is rated low. Approximately 9,800 acres located on the eastern margin of the WSA are leased for oil and gas.

No strategic or critical minerals are known to occur within the WSA.

Livestock

Portions of five allotments, accounting for 4,860 AUMs of use, are located in the WSA. Four different operators run cattle in these allotments. The La Plata/Mountain Well, Dixie Valley and White Cloud allotments are used primarily in the spring, summer and fall while Frenchman Flat is grazed in the winter and spring. The future quality of grazing is expected to remain the same.

Range improvements include fifty-five small spring developments, nine miles of water pipeline and associated stock tanks in four separate locations, twelve miles of fenceline, four cabins and two corrals. There are also two borrow pits in the area. A two mile long pipeline and a one acre reaper will be constructed in East Lee Canyon as part of a pre-FLPMA Allotment Management Plan (AMP).

Woodland Products

Some limited amount of pine nut gathering occurs in the WSA, however, all woodlands found in the study area have been classed as non-productive in nature.

Wildlife Habitat

About 37,000 acres in the central portion of the WSA are yearlong deer range and mountain lion habitat. Desert Bighorn sheep habitat overlaps about 6,500 of these acres in the northeast corner of the study area. Desert Bighorns were reintroduced into this area in July, 1981 and June, 1982. At least six species of raptors, including golden eagles and great horned owls, have permanent ranges in the WSA.

Lands

No private lands are found within the WSA or along its boundaries. A right-of-way for a telephone line forms a short segment of the WSA's northwest boundary.

The Fallon Naval Air Station (NAS) has made application to withdraw 181,323 acres in Dixie Valley to serve as a buffer zone around their existing bombing range south of U.S. 50. About 23,320 acres of this proposed withdrawal is located in the southeast corner of the Job Peak WSA. The Navy is currently preparing an environmental impact statement on the proposed withdrawal and is expected to address the wilderness issue in this EIS.

TABLE 3-1
WSA RESOURCE CHARACTERISTICS

	<u>Clan Alpines</u>	<u>Stillwater Range</u>	<u>Desatoyas</u>	<u>Job Peak</u>
<u>Acres</u>	196,128	94,607	51,262	90,209
<u>Existing Recreation</u>				
<u>Visitor Days^{1/}</u>	2,026	520	1,241	578
<u>Energy & Minerals</u>				
Mining Claims				
Number	451	594	0	235
Acres	9,020	11,880	0	4,700
Geothermal Leases				
Number	6	15	0	16
Acres	5,530	11,247	0	15,166
Oil & Gas Leases				
Number	70	17	4	7
Acres	118,030	17,754	2,112	9,867
<u>Woodland Products</u>				
Harvestable Acres	10,850	0	2,240	0
<u>Livestock Management</u>				
<u>Permittees^{2/}</u>	3	4	3	4
AUMs	5,334	2,035	2,214	4,860

^{1/} Estimated by the Lahontan Area Outdoor Recreation Planner and Lahontan Area Wilderness Specialist.

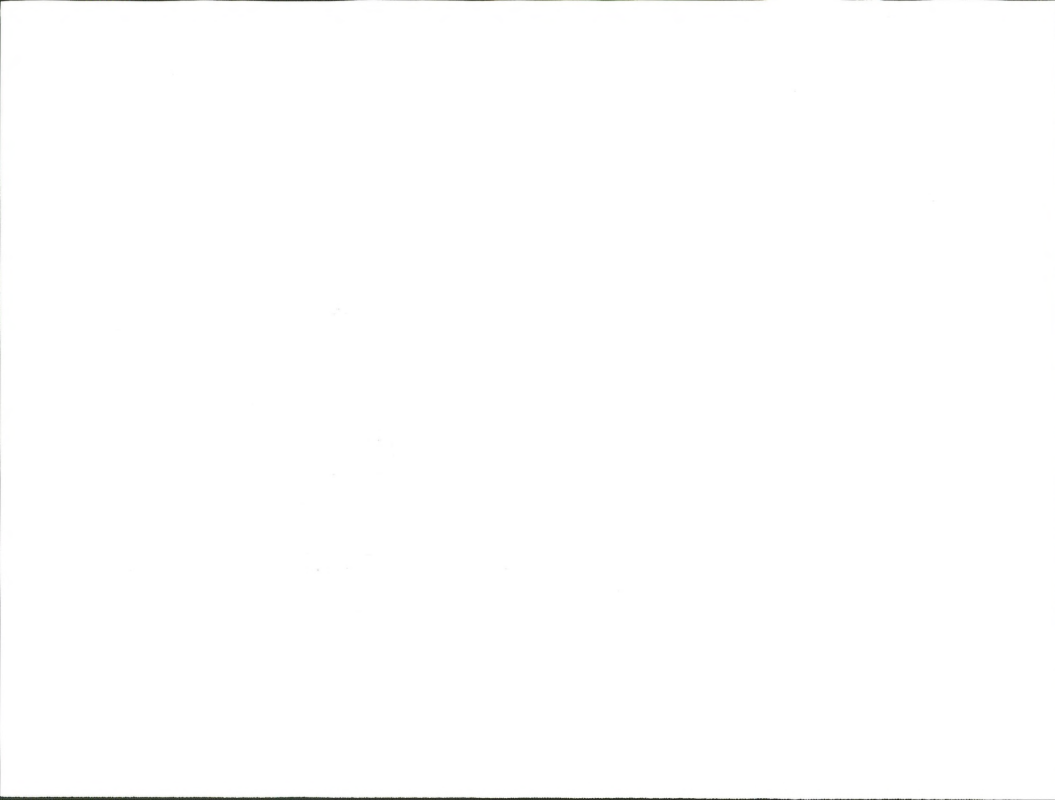
^{2/} There is a total of nine permittees utilizing the four WSAs. Some permittees graze cattle in more than one of the study areas.

Source: Bureau of Land Management, Carson City District, 1986.

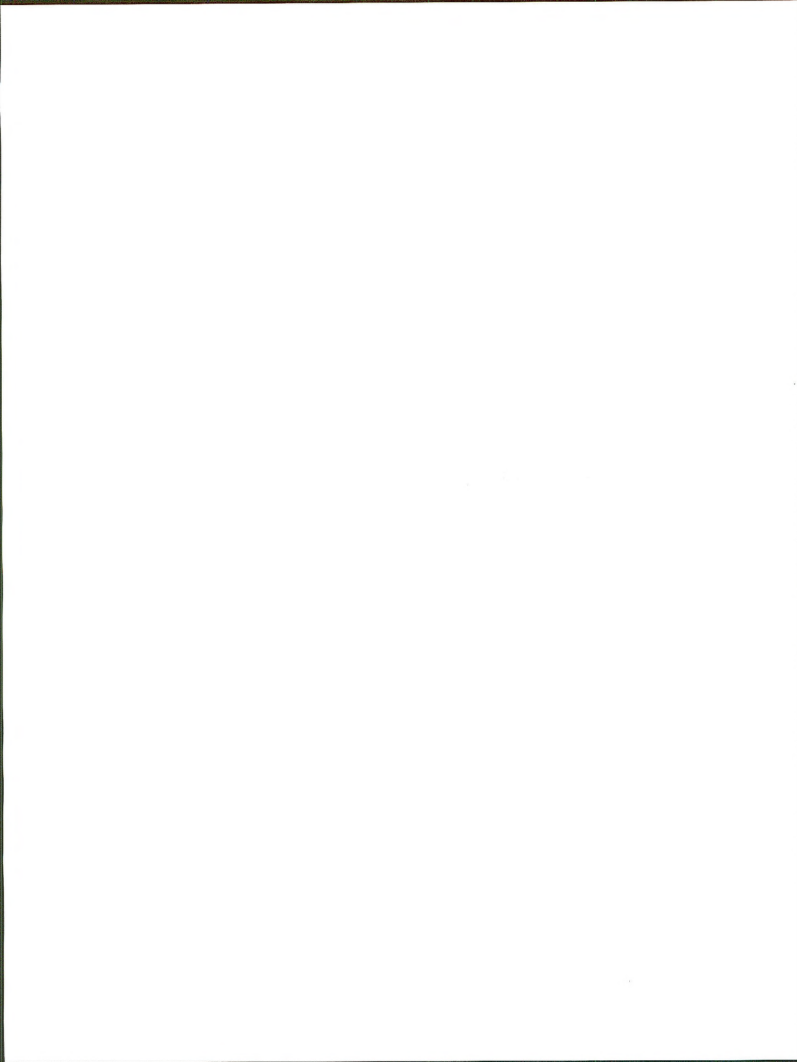
TABLE 3-2
LIVESTOCK USE* IN LAHONTAN RESOURCE AREA
WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

WSA	ALLOTMENTS	NUMBER OF PERMITTEES	AUTHORIZED SEASON OF USE IN THE ALLOTMENT	ACTUAL SEASON OF USE WITHIN THE WSA		
102 Clan Alpine Mountains	Clan Alpine	1	Apr 15 - Dec 15	SP	SU	F
	Cow Canyon	1	May 1 - Oct 15	SP	SU	F
	Dixie Valley	1	Year Round	SP	SU	F
104 Stillwater Range	Boyer Ranch	1	Year Round		SU	F
	Copper Kettle	1	Year Round	SP	SU	F
	Dixie Valley/ Hare Canyon/ Mississippi Canyon	1	Year Round	SP	SU	F
	White Cloud	1	Year Round		SU	F
110 Desatoya Mountains	Clan Alpine	1	Apr 16 - Dec 15	SP	SU	F
	South Smith Creek (Battle Mtn.)	1	Apr 15 - Oct 31		SU	F
	Eastgate		Apr 15 - Oct 31		SU	F
	Porter Canyon (Battle Mtn.)	1	Year Round	SP	SU	F
	Edwards Creek		May 1 - Mar 31	SP	SU	F
127 Job Peak	Dixie Valley	1	Year Round		SP	SU F
	Frenchman Flat	1	Nov 1 - Mar 31	W SP		
	La Plata/ Mtn. Well	1	Year Round	SP	SU	F
	White Cloud	1	Year Round	SP	SU	F

SP = spring
SU = summer



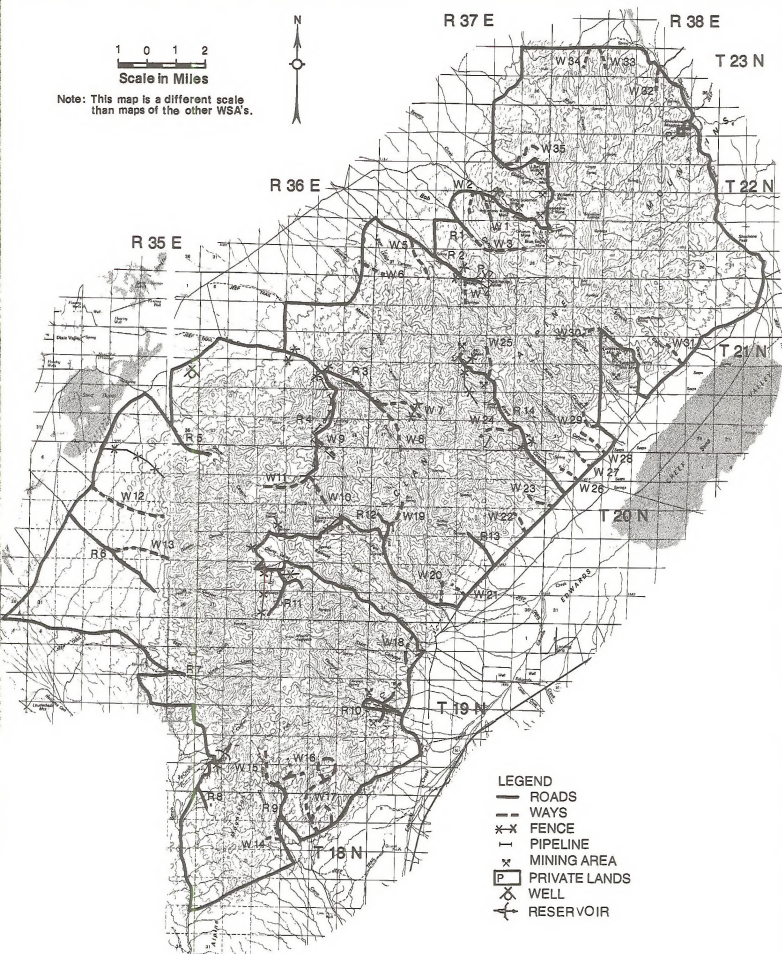
**CLAN ALPINE MTN
WSA MAPS**



1 0 1 2

Scale in Miles

Note: This map is a different scale
than maps of the other WSA's.



EXISTING SITUATION
CLAN ALPINE MTNS. NV-030-102

1 0 1 2

Scale in Miles

Note: This map is a different scale than maps of the other WSA's.



R 37 E

R 38 E

T 23 N

R 36 E

R 35 E

T 22 N



T 21 N

T 20 N

T 19 N

T 18 N

LEGEND

-  OIL & GAS LEASES
(AS OF FEBRUARY 2, 1983)
-  GEOTHERMAL LEASES
(AS OF FEBRUARY 2, 1983)

POST / PRE FLPMA MINING CLAIMS
(AS OF APRIL 11, 1983)

MINING CLAIMS & MINERAL LEASES
CLAN ALPINE MTNS. NV-030-102

1 0 1 2

Scale in Miles

Note: This map is a different scale than maps of the other WSA's.



R 37 E

R 38 E

T 23 N

R 36 E

T 22 N

R 35 E

T 21 N

T 20 N

T 19 N

T 18 N

M-GEO

H-MET
M-GEO

H-MET
M-GEO

M-GEO
M-MET

H-GEO
M-MET

H-MET
M-GEO

LEGEND

H—HIGH FAVORABILITY

M—MODERATE FAVORABILITY

GEO—GEOTHERMAL

MET—METALLIC MINERALS

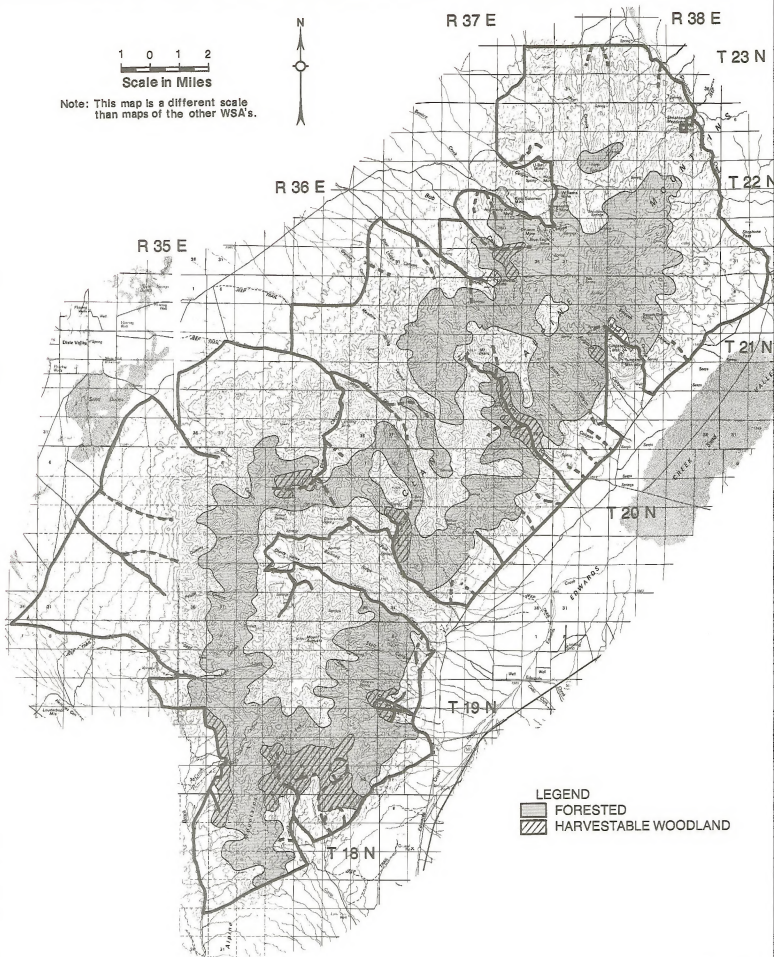
MINERAL POTENTIAL

CLAN ALPINE MTNS. NV-030-102

1 0 1 2

Scale in Miles

Note: This map is a different scale than maps of the other WSA's.



LEGEND

-  FORESTED
-  HARVESTABLE WOODLAND

WOODLAND
CLAN ALPINE MTNS. NV-030-102

1 0 1 2

Scale in Miles

Note: This map is a different scale than maps of the other WSA's.



R 37 E

R 38 E

T 23 N

R 36 E

T 22 N

R 35 E




T 21 N

T 20 N

T 19 N

T 18 N

LEGEND

-  DEER YEARLONG
-  MOUNTAIN LION
-  SAGE GROUSE

WILDLIFE HABITAT

CLAN ALPINE MTNS. NV-030-102



**STILLWATER RANGE
WSA MAPS**



R 33 E

R 34 E

R 35 E

T 24 N

1 0 1 2

Scale in Miles



LEGEND

- ROADS
- - - WAYS
- * * * FENCE
- x MINING AREA
- [P] PRIVATE LANDS
- ⊗ WELL

EXISTING SITUATION
 STILLWATER RANGE NV-030-104

R 33 E

R 34 E

R 35 E

T 24 N

1 0 1 2
Scale in Miles





T 23 N

T 22 N

T 21 N

LEGEND

-  OIL & GAS LEASES
(AS OF FEBRUARY 2, 1983)
-  GEOTHERMAL LEASES
(AS OF FEBRUARY 2, 1983)

POST / PRE FLPMA MINING CLAIMS
(AS OF APRIL 11, 1983)

MINING CLAIMS & MINERAL LEASES

STILLWATER RANGE NV-030-104

R 33 E

R 34 E

R 35 E

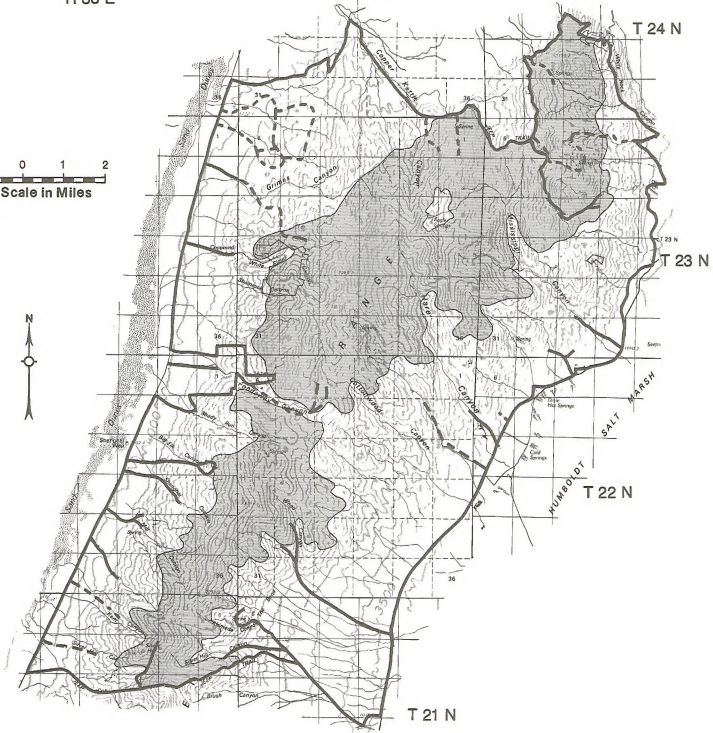
T 24 N

1 0 1 2
Scale in Miles

T 23 N

T 22 N

T 21 N



LEGEND

 FORESTED

WOODLAND
STILLWATER RANGE NV-030-104

R 33 E

R 34 E

R 35 E

T 24 N

1 0 1 2

Scale in Miles



T 23 N

T 22 N

T 21 N

SALT MARSH

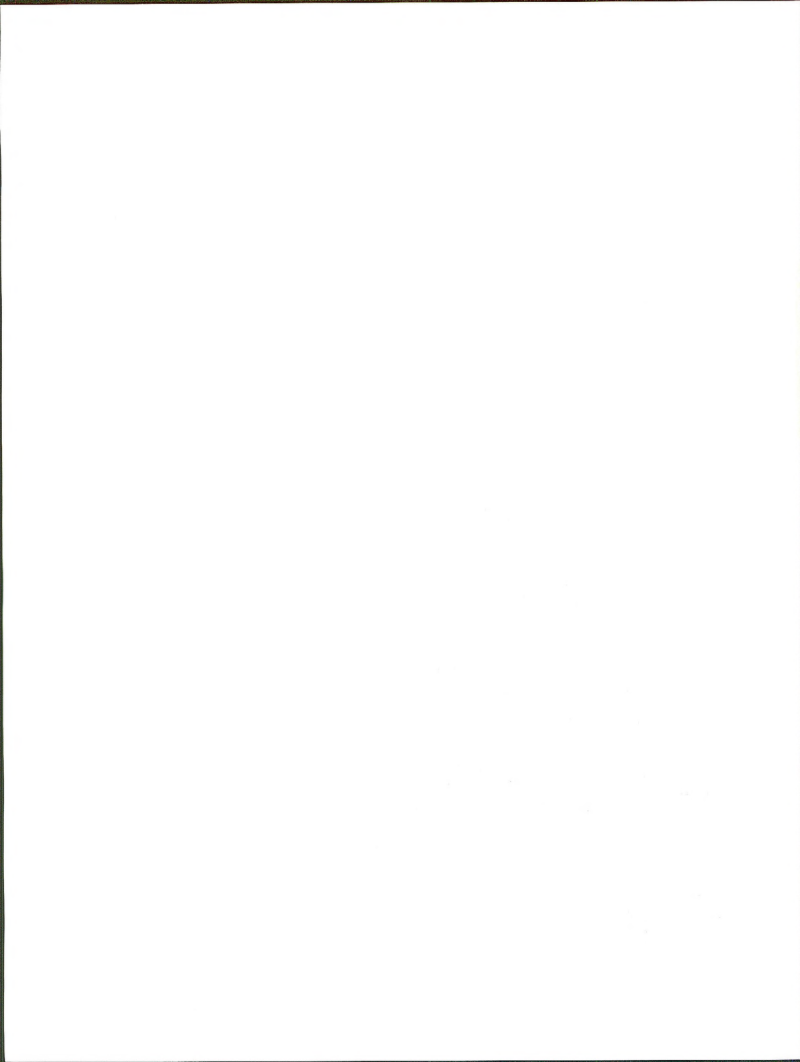
HUMBOLDT

LEGEND

 DEER YEARLONG MOUNTAIN LION

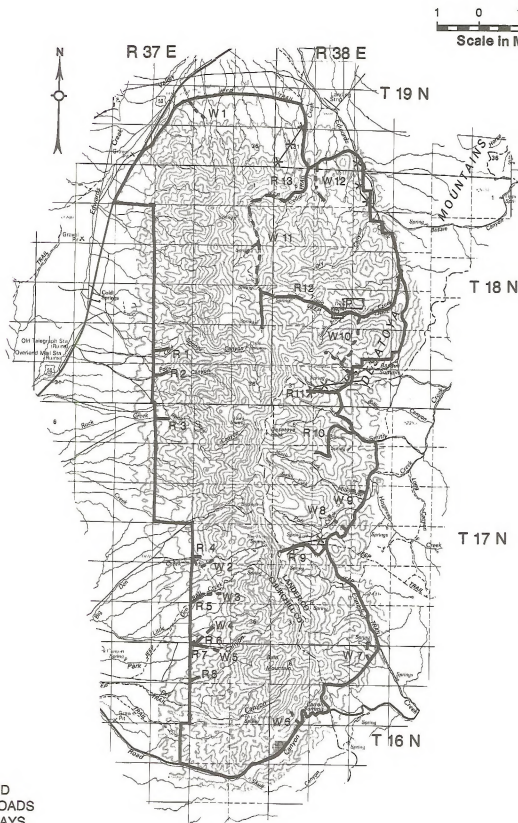
WILDLIFE HABITAT

STILLWATER RANGE NV-030-104



**DESATOYA
WSA MAPS**

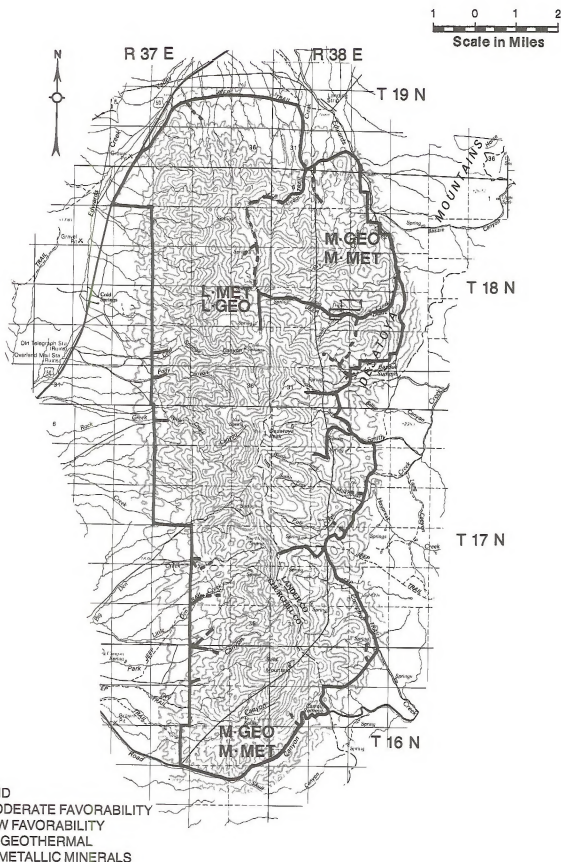




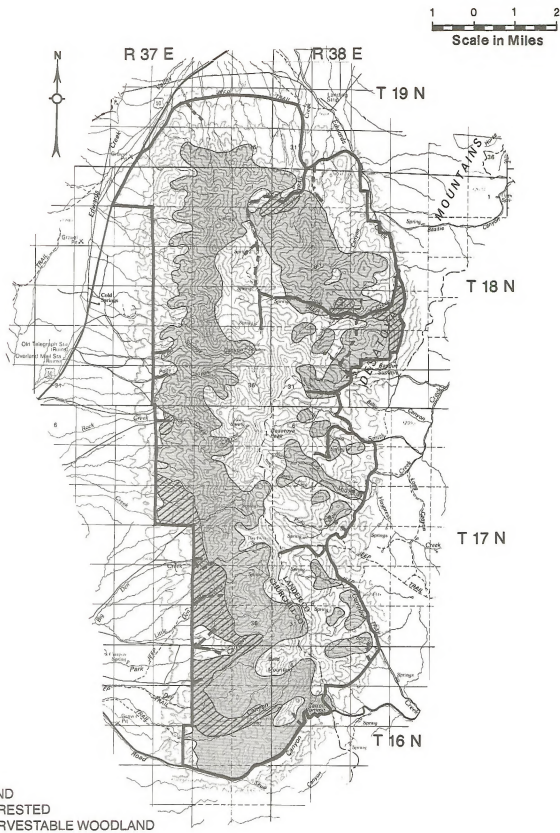
LEGEND

- ROADS
- - - WAYS
- * * * FENCE
- [P] PRIVATE LANDS
- [Shaded Box] MATERIALS SITE

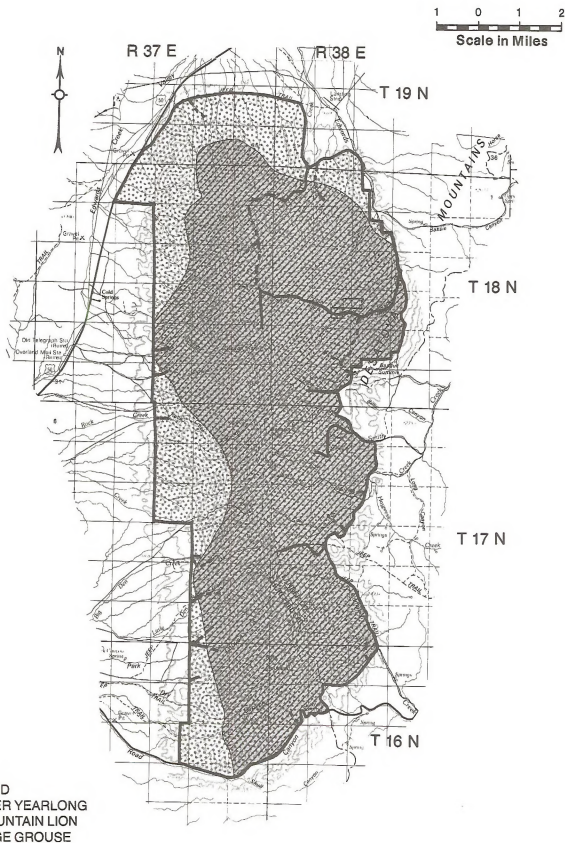
EXISTING SITUATION
DESATOYA NV-030-110



MINERAL POTENTIAL
DESATOYA NV-030-110

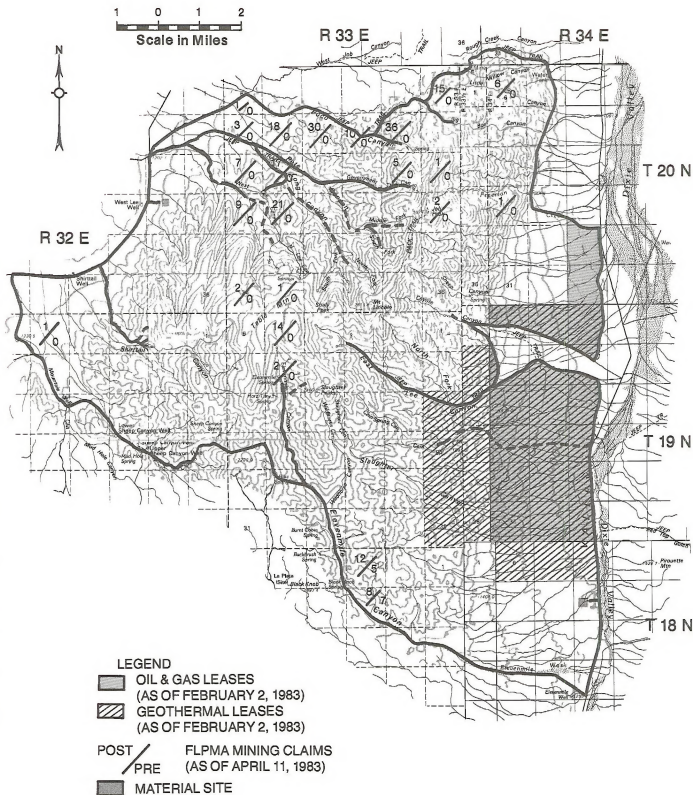


WOODLAND
DESATOYA NV-030-110



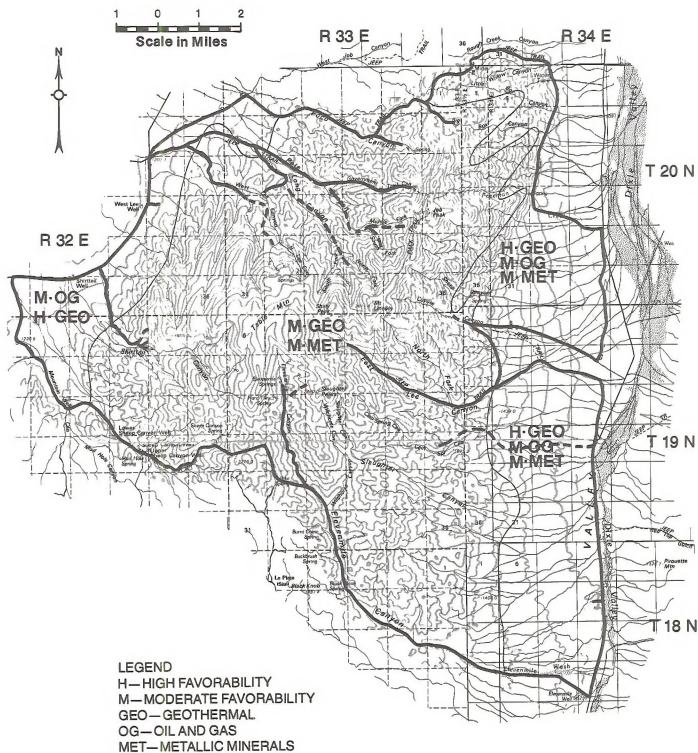


**JOB PEAK
WSA MAPS**

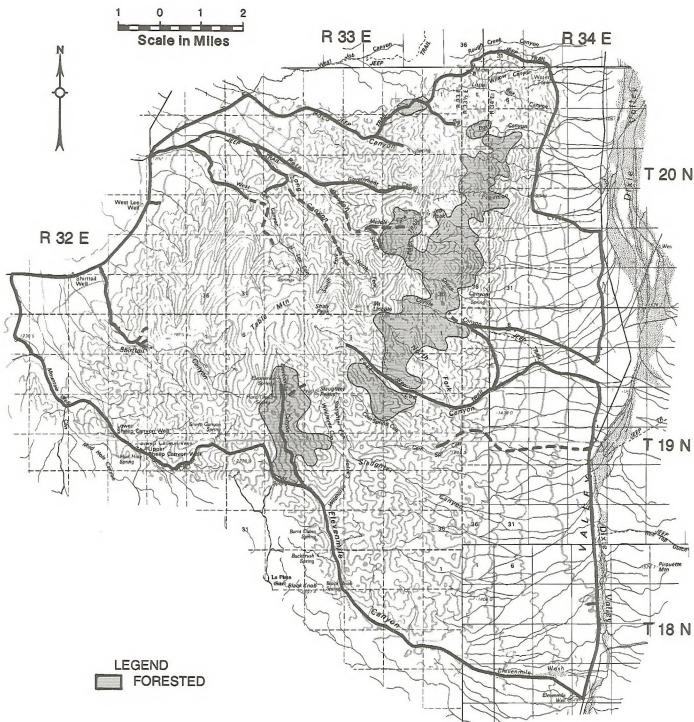


MINING CLAIMS & MINERAL LEASES

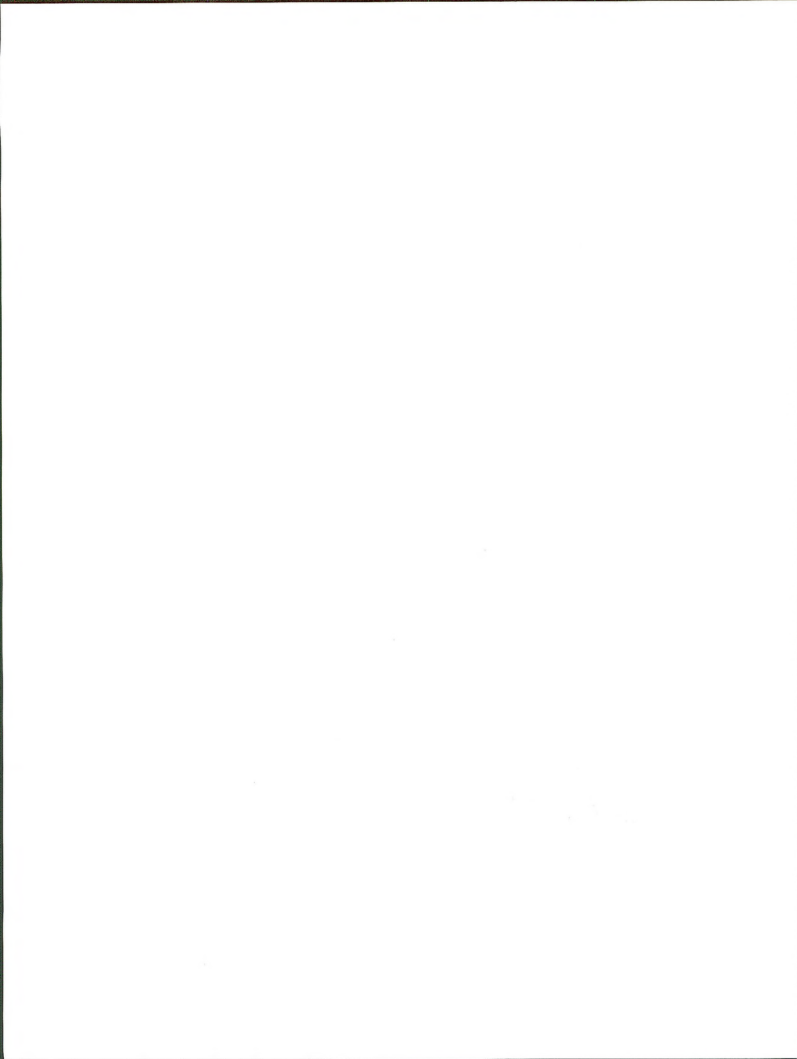
JOB PEAK NV-030-127



MINERAL POTENTIAL
JOB PEAK NV-030-127

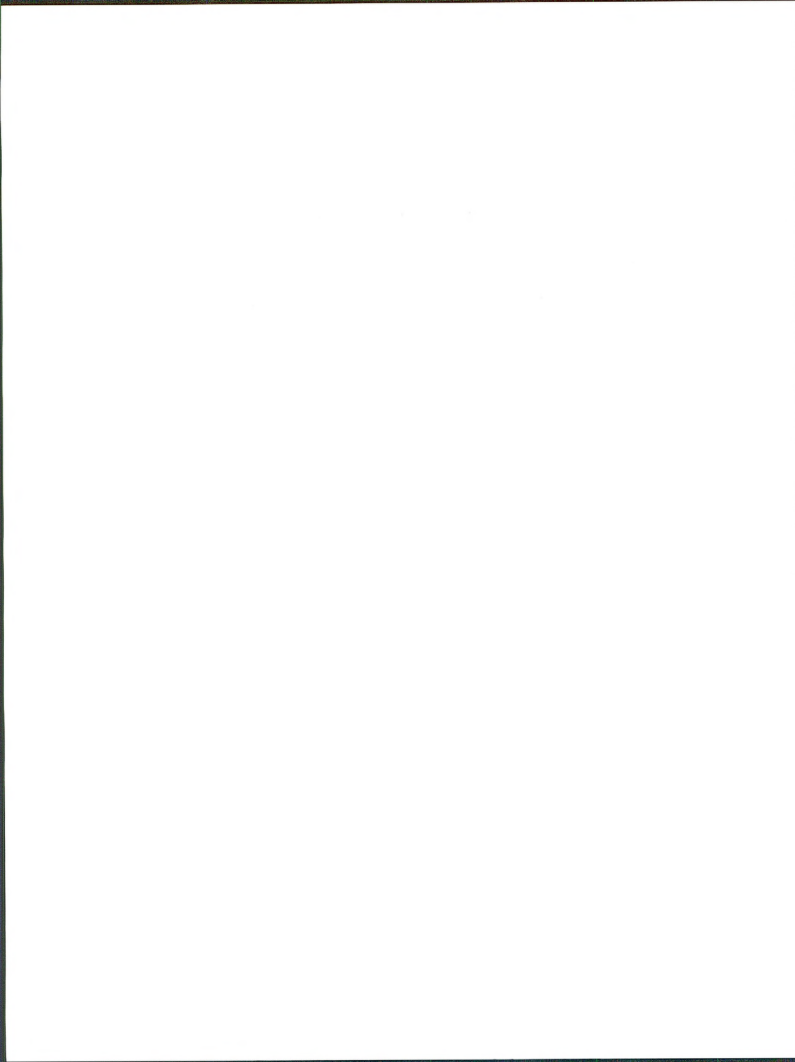


WOODLAND
JOB PEAK NV-030-127



CHAPTER FOUR

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES



CHAPTER 4

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

CLAN ALPINE MOUNTAINS WSA (NV-030-102)

Proposed Action (Alternative C - Partial Wilderness)

Under the Proposed Action, 68,458 acres of the Clan Alpine Mountains WSA would be designated wilderness.

The primary impacts under this alternative relate to the protection of wilderness values through wilderness designation and the resulting increases in naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

All wilderness values on the 68,458 acres recommended suitable for wilderness designation would receive the special legislative protection provided by wilderness designation. The areas of the most spectacular scenery, naturalness and outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would be retained. These include lands in Deep Canyon, Cow Canyon and along Horse and Bench Creeks, as well as Mt. Augusta.

Ten miles of cherrystem roads extending into the area recommended suitable would remain open while six miles of ways would be closed. This action would eliminate approximately 45 of the 350 visitor days of recreational ORV use estimated to occur in the area at present. This would improve slightly the area's naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation because surface disturbance would be eliminated on the ways which are closed and visitors would encounter or hear ORV users only near the cherrystem roads which remain open.

The 127,670 acres not designated wilderness would be open for recreational ORV use. Thirty-one miles of roads and thirty-three miles of ways would remain open for vehicle use. Recreational ORV use on this parcel would increase from 560 to approximately 1100 visitor days per year. This slightly would reduce the naturalness and opportunities for solitude throughout the 127,670 acres in the foreseeable future.

Development of energy and mineral resources would not affect wilderness values in the suitable parcel, since no development is expected. Exploration for metallic minerals is expected to continue throughout the area not designated as wilderness and should result in about 300 acres of surface disturbance in the foreseeable future due to the construction of up to 90 miles of new roads and 800 drill pads. Much of this exploration would occur around existing areas of surface disturbance in Bernice/Hoyt Canyons, Dyer Canyon, Tungsten Mountain and Florence Canyon, however, it is anticipated that virtually all of the unsuitable portion would experience some exploration activity thereby adversely impacting the wilderness values found there. Construction of roads in currently unroaded areas would result in the most serious impacts to

wilderness values. One small precious metals surface mining operation is likely to be developed in the long-term in one of the canyons mentioned above and would result in about fifty acres of surface disturbance associated with an open pit mine, waste dump, tailings pond, mill site and two miles of access road. Geothermal exploration and drilling in the northwestern corner of the WSA, outside the suitable parcel, would disturb another 10 acres and adversely impact solitude and naturalness in that area. A grand total of 360 acres of disturbance would occur as a result of all mineral and energy related activities.

Required maintenance would be done on one well, three and one-quarter miles of pipeline, eight developed springs and four miles of barbed wire fence. Maintenance will have a negligible effect on the wilderness values of naturalness and solitude in the 68,458 acres designated wilderness. All improvements, with the exception of two springs which are maintained by horseback, would be serviced by motorized vehicles utilizing cherrystemmed roads located outside the WSA. Development of two allotment management plans (AMPs) and the anticipated construction of approximately four and one-half miles of gap fence will have a positive effect on the area's naturalness by better distributing livestock use and improving the vegetative condition of pastures. The fences themselves will have a negligible effect on the area's naturalness since they will blend with the surroundings and required maintenance would be conducted either by horseback or from cherrystemmed roads. Existing roads and ways would be utilized, where feasible, for access during construction of these fences. Otherwise, materials would be packed in by horseback. The use of motorized vehicles within the wilderness area for normal livestock management activities would be restricted, but such use could be approved for maintenance or other activities.

Construction of six and one-half miles of gap fence and maintenance of all range improvements in the nonsuitable portion would be conducted in a similar manner and have a negligible impact on wilderness values. Maintenance generally would be done on an annual basis. A small CAT or backhoe will be needed approximately every 10-15 years to maintain the one reservoir found there.

Preclusion of woodland products harvest on 2,360 acres of pinyon-juniper woodland in the suitable portion would benefit the wilderness value of naturalness. Utilization of all or some of the remaining 8,490 acres of productive woodland would have a short-term negative impact upon the naturalness of these areas selected for this activity due to the removal of existing vegetation. Productive woodlands suitable for such activities primarily are located near existing roads and ways, so it is unlikely that additional access routes would be required.

Conclusion. The area's most spectacular scenery, natural areas and outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation and solitude would be retained on the 68,458 acres recommended suitable. The includes lands in Deep and Cow Canyons, and along Horse and Bench Creeks as well as Mt. Augusta. On the 127,670 acres not designated wilderness, there would be a reduction of naturalness and opportunities for solitude.

Impacts on Motorized Recreation Use

Wilderness designation would close 68,458 acres of the WSA to recreational ORV use, including six miles of primitive vehicle routes. Approximately 45 visitor days would be displaced to nearby lands within the nonsuitable portion of the WSA. Motorized recreational use foregone would be absorbed by surrounding public lands.

The 127,670 acres of the WSA not designated wilderness would remain open to ORVs. Recreational ORV use is projected to reach a level of 1100 visitor days annually over the long term.

Conclusion. Motorized recreational use would be eliminated on the 68,458 acres designated wilderness and 45 visitor days would be foregone annually. The impacts of shifting this use to other public lands would be negligible. On the 127,670 acres of the WSA not designated as wilderness, motorized recreational use would continue to increase to approximately 1100 visitor days annually in the long term.

Impacts on Development of Mineral/Energy Resources

All lands within the 68,458 acres recommended as suitable for wilderness designation would be withdrawn from all forms of mineral entry and mineral leasing. This includes 68,458 acres with moderate favorability for both metallic mineral and geothermal resources. Oil and gas potential is rated low throughout the area. Twenty-nine mining claims are located in the suitable parcel, however, development of these claims is unlikely.

All lands within the 127,670 acres recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness designation would remain open for mineral entry and leasing. This includes 3,100 acres with high and 124,570 acres with moderate potential for metallic minerals, and 5,300 acres with high and 122,370 acres with moderate potential for geothermal resources. Exploration for metallic minerals is anticipated to continue throughout the area recommended nonsuitable with a total of about 300 acres of surface disturbance occurring in the foreseeable future as a result of the construction of up to 800 drill pads and 90 miles of new roads. One small surface mine, with a total surface disturbance of approximately 50 acres is expected to be developed. This would probably occur in the northern third of the nonsuitable portion of the WSA. Exploration and drilling for geothermal resources in the northwestern portion of the nonsuitable area is expected to disturb a total of approximately 10 acres over the long term.

Conclusion. Exploration for energy and mineral resources on 68,458 acres recommended suitable for wilderness designation would be foregone. There would be no impact on exploration activities or development of mineral and energy resources on the 127,670 acres recommended nonsuitable. One small surface mine is expected to be developed in the northern portion of the nonsuitable parcel.

Impacts on Woodland Products Availability

About 2,360 acres of productive pinyon-juniper woodland in the central portion of the area recommended suitable for designation would be unavailable for firewood cutting or commercial harvest of pine nuts. Approximately 8,490 acres of productive woodlands would still be available for these activities in the unsuitable portion of the WSA. Woodland products availability would be reduced.

Conclusion. Woodland products availability would be reduced by approximately 6 percent within the Lahontan RMP area. Ninety-four percent of the manageable woodlands within the RMP area would remain available for harvest. Approximately 2,360 acres of productive woodland would not be available for firewood cutting or commercial harvest of pine nuts.

Adverse Impacts Which Cannot Be Avoided

On the 68,458 acres designated wilderness, there would be no unavoidable adverse impacts.

On the 127,670 acres not designated wilderness, the unavoidable adverse impacts would be those associated with energy and mineral exploration and development. Some of these impacts may be reduced by careful examination and mitigation stipulations in the approved Notices of Intent and Plans of Operation.

Relationship Between Local Short-Term Uses of Man's Environment and Maintenance and Enhancement of Long-Term Productivity

On the 68,458 acres designated wilderness, the wilderness values would be protected, except in areas of valid discoveries.

On the 127,670 acres not designated wilderness, all present uses would continue. Off-road vehicle use and energy and mineral exploration and developments would reduce the wilderness values.

Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources

On the 68,458 acres designated wilderness, no irreversible or irretrievable commitment of wilderness values is expected, except in areas of valid discoveries.

On the 127,670 acres designated nonwilderness, mining and energy exploration and development would create an irreversible commitment of wilderness resources.

Alternative A (All Wilderness)

Under Alternative A, the entire 196,128 acres of the Clan Alpine Mountains WSA would be recommended suitable for wilderness designation.

The primary impacts under this alternative relate to mineral and energy withdrawals, the closure of the designated wilderness to off-road motorized vehicles, the removal of manageable pinyon-juniper woodlands from production and the resulting effects on mineral and energy exploration and development, motorized recreational use, woodland products availability and the protection of wilderness values.

Impacts to Wilderness Values

Under this alternative, the entire WSA would be recommended suitable for wilderness designation and wilderness values would be protected by legislative mandate. Wilderness values of naturalness and outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would be retained throughout the majority of the WSA, including all of the canyons, riparian areas and geologic formations stretching from Shoshone Meadows in the north to Bench Creek in the south.

Forty-one miles of cherrystem roads would be open for vehicle access. The 196,128 acre area, including 39 miles of ways, would be closed to motorized recreational use. This action would eliminate approximately 300 visitor days of recreational ORV use. About 620 days of motorized recreational use still would occur along the cherrystem roads. This would improve slightly the area's naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation because the ways would be allowed to rehabilitate naturally and visitors would encounter or hear ORV users only near the cherrystem roads which remain open.

Subject to valid existing rights, wilderness designation of the Clan Alpine Mountains WSA would withdraw the area from mineral entry. It is not anticipated that any valid discoveries will be proven and there should be no impacts upon wilderness values as a result of mineral or energy related activities.

Required maintenance would be performed for the existing well, reservoir, three and one-quarter miles of pipeline, thirteen developed springs and nine miles of barbed wire fence necessary for livestock grazing management. Eleven miles of gap fencing would be completed in the WSA. This would have a negligible effect on the WSA's naturalness since it will be located in several different areas and will blend with the surroundings. Development of two allotment management plans (AMPs) will have a positive effect on the area's naturalness by better distributing livestock use and improving the vegetative condition of pastures.

The reservoir will require heavy maintenance every 10 to 15 years and will require two days of earthwork using tracked vehicles or a front-end loader. The majority of all other improvements are located along cherrystemmed roads and would be maintained by motorized vehicles. Spring developments and fences not near a cherrystemmed road would be checked yearly either on foot or by horseback. The use of motorized vehicles within the wilderness area for normal livestock management activities would be restricted, but such use could be approved for maintenance or other activities.

Preclusion of woodland products harvest on 10,850 acres of pinyon-juniper woodland would benefit the wilderness value of naturalness.

The wilderness values of naturalness, solitude and primitive recreation, and the supplemental values of outstanding sightseeing in a diverse geologic and natural area would be maintained on all 196,128 acres of the WSA.

Conclusion. All wilderness values in the 196,128 acres of the WSA would receive Congressional protection. This includes all of the major canyons, riparian areas and geologic formations stretching from Shoshone Meadows on the north to Bench Creek on the south.

Impacts on Motorized Recreation Use

Wilderness designation would close 196,128 acres of the WSA to recreational ORV use, including thirty-nine miles of primitive vehicle routes. Recreational ORV use of approximately 300 visitor days would be eliminated annually from the WSA. This would result in some of this use being transferred to other public lands within the region which offer similar opportunities as well as increased use of the 41 miles of cherrystem roads found within the WSA itself. Recreational ORV use foregone in the WSA would be absorbed on surrounding public lands.

Conclusion. Recreational ORV use would be foregone on the 196,128 acres designated wilderness and 300 visitor days would be foregone annually. The impacts of shifting this use to other public lands would be negligible.

Impacts on Development of Mineral/Energy Resources

All lands within the Clan Alpine Mountains WSA would be withdrawn from all forms of mineral entry and mineral leasing. Exploration for mineral and energy resources would be foregone. This includes 3,100 acres with high and 191,600 acres with moderate potential for metallic mineral resources, and 5,300 acres with high and 190,800 acres with moderate potential for geothermal resources. Approximately 9,020 acres of the WSA are covered by mining claims, however, it is anticipated that none of these claims would have valid existing rights. Development of a small surface gold and silver mine (50 acres) would be foregone.

Conclusion. Exploration for mineral and energy resources would be foregone. Development of one small surface gold and silver mine would be foregone.

Impacts on Woodland Products Availability

Approximately 10,850 acres of productive pinyon-juniper woodland within the WSA would be unavailable for firewood or Christmas tree cutting or commercial harvest of pine nuts. This acreage accounts for about 29 percent of the manageable woodlands within the area covered by the Lahontan Resource

Management Plan (RMP). Annual allowable harvest within the RMP area would be reduced by a similar amount. Removal of this acreage from production would result in a reduction in woodland products availability.

Conclusion. Woodland products availability would be reduced by approximately 29 percent within the Lahontan RMP area. About 10,850 acres of productive woodland would be unavailable for harvest.

Alternative D (No Wilderness)

Under Alternative D the 196,128 acre Clan Alpine Mountains WSA would be recommended unsuitable for wilderness designation.

The primary impacts under this alternative relate to the effect of exploration and development of mineral and energy resources, motorized recreational use and the continuation of livestock grazing on wilderness values.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

The entire WSA would be recommended unsuitable for wilderness designation and none of the existing wilderness values would receive the special legislative protection provided by wilderness designation.

The immediate impact of this action would be negligible since little development activity is anticipated in the short-term whether or not the area is designated wilderness.

Forty-one miles of cherrystem roads and thirty-nine miles of primitive vehicle routes would remain open to motorized recreational use. Recreational ORV use is expected to increase from approximately 920 visitor days per year at present to about 1600 visitor days annually in the foreseeable future. Although creation of new trails or ways for recreational ORV use is not anticipated, it is expected that increased use of existing roads and ways would reduce opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation and solitude slightly since visitors are more likely to see and hear ORVs in the area.

Exploration for metallic minerals is expected to continue throughout the WSA, particularly in the areas around Bernice/Hoyt Canyon, Dyer Canyon, Tungsten Mountain and Florence Canyon. It is anticipated that there will be two Notices of Intent filed per year for the foreseeable future. Based on past experience, it is expected this exploration will disturb about 300 acres and involve the construction of up to 800 drill pads and 90 miles of new roads. Although much of this exploration activity will be concentrated around the canyons mentioned above, it is anticipated that virtually all of the WSA would experience some exploration, thereby adversely impacting wilderness values. Construction of roads in areas which are currently unroaded would result in detrimental impacts to both naturalness and solitude opportunities, especially since it can be expected that those roads also would be used for motorized recreation.

Development of some of the 451 existing mining claims in the WSA is anticipated due to the high to moderate potential for metallic minerals.

Over time wilderness values would be lost in areas of development. For the purpose of this analysis it is assumed that in the foreseeable future there would be one discovery of mineral resources in this WSA. An estimated 50 acres of surface disturbance would be associated with developing a small surface mine. Mineral development activities would include about two miles of access roads, an open pit mine, waste dump, tailings pond and mill site.

Geophysical exploration and drilling for geothermal energy within the northwestern portion of the WSA would involve some cross country travel. Exploration drilling is expected to involve about 4 wells and 5 miles of road, disturbing about 10 acres of land. Wilderness values would be lost in areas of exploration.

A grand total of 360 acres of disturbance would occur as a result of all energy and mineral related activities.

Continued maintenance of one reservoir, one well, three and one-quarter miles of pipeline, thirteen developed springs and nine miles of barbed wire fence would impact the area's naturalness and solitude slightly since there would be no monitoring or control on the use of motorized vehicles and equipment for maintenance purposes. Implementation of two AMPs, which includes the construction of eleven miles of gap fence, would have a slight beneficial effect upon the area's naturalness through better distribution of livestock use and improvement in the condition of vegetative communities. The impacts upon wilderness values as a result of the construction and maintenance of the new fences would be negligible since they would be similar to those experienced with respect to existing fences.

Utilization of all or some of the 10,850 acres of manageable pinyon-juniper woodland within the WSA for firewood or Christmas tree cutting and commercial pine nut harvest would have a short-term negative impact upon the naturalness of those areas selected for this activity due to the removal of existing vegetation. Productive woodlands suitable for such activities primarily are located near existing roads and ways, so it is unlikely that additional access routes would be required.

Conclusion. On the 196,128 acres of the WSA, there would be a reduction of the area's naturalness and opportunities for solitude in the long-term primarily because of energy and mineral exploration and development activities, and continued and increasing recreational ORV use. This would be most noticeable around Dyer, Florence and Bernice Canyons and Tungsten Mountain. There would be negligible impacts to wilderness values due to the maintenance of range facilities and harvest of woodland products.

Impacts on Motorized Recreation Use

The WSA would be open to ORV use. Recreational ORV use levels would increase to approximately 1600 visitor days per year in the foreseeable future.

Conclusion. There would be no impact on motorized recreation use.

Impacts on Development of Mineral/Energy Resources

All lands within the Clan Alpine Mountains WSA would remain open for mineral entry and mineral leasing. Exploration for energy and mineral resources would be unconstrained by wilderness considerations. Development of one small precious metals mine is likely.

Because all lands would remain open, there would be no impact to exploration for, or development of, mineral and energy resources.

Conclusion. Energy and mineral resources would be available for exploration and development. There would be no impact on the exploration for, or development of, mineral resources. Development of one small precious metals mine is anticipated.

Impacts on Woodlands Products Availability

Approximately 10,850 acres of manageable pinyon-juniper woodland along cherrystem roads within the WSA would be available for firewood and Christmas tree cutting or commercial harvest of pine nuts. This accounts for about 29 percent of the harvestable woodland within the RMP area. There would be no impact on the availability of woodland products.

Conclusion. There would be no impact on woodland products availability.

Alternative B (Partial Wilderness)

Under this alternative, 158,504 acres of the Clan Alpine Mountains WSA would be recommended suitable for wilderness designation and 37,624 acres would be recommended non-suitable for wilderness designation.

The primary impacts under this alternative relate to the protection of wilderness values through wilderness designation and the resulting increases in naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

All wilderness values on the 158,504 acres recommended suitable for wilderness designation would receive the special legislative protection provided by wilderness designation. The areas of the most spectacular scenery, naturalness and outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would be retained. In addition, areas of less impressive scenery and moderate wilderness values would receive the protection afforded by wilderness designation. This includes all of the major features of the area such as Mt. Grant, Mt. Augusta, Deep and Cow Canyons, the majority of riparian areas and significant geologic formations.

Thirty miles of cherrystem roads extending into the area recommended suitable would remain open while eighteen miles of vehicle ways would be closed. This action would eliminate approximately 150 of the 920 visitor days of recreational ORV use estimated to occur in the area at present. This would improve the area's naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation since visitors would encounter or hear ORV users only near the cherrystem road which remain open and surface disturbance would be eliminated on the ways which are closed.

The 37,624 acres not designated wilderness would be open for recreational ORV use. Eleven miles of roads and twenty-one miles of ways would remain open for recreational use. Recreational use on this parcel would increase from 770 to approximately 1400 visitor days per year. This would reduce the naturalness and opportunities for solitude throughout the 37,624 acres in the foreseeable future.

Development of energy and mineral resources would not affect wilderness values in the suitable parcel, since no development is expected. Exploration for metallic minerals is expected to continue throughout the 37,624 acres not designated as wilderness and should result in about 80 acres of surface disturbance in the foreseeable future due to the construction of up to 20 miles of new roads and 250 drill pads. Much of this exploration would occur around existing areas of surface disturbance in Dyer Canyon, Tungsten Mountain and Florence Canyon, however, it is anticipated that virtually all of the non-suitable portion would experience some exploration activity thereby adversely impacting the wilderness values found there. Construction of roads in currently unroaded areas would result in the most serious impacts to wilderness values. One small precious metals surface mining operation is likely to be developed in the long-term in one of the canyons mentioned above and would result in about fifty acres of surface disturbance associated with an open pit mine, waste dump, tailings pond, mill site and two miles of access road. Geothermal exploration and drilling in the northwestern corner of the WSA outside the suitable parcel would disturb another 10 acres and adversely impact wilderness values in that area. A grand total of about 140 acres would experience surface disturbance from mineral and energy related activities in the foreseeable future.

Required maintenance would be done on one reservoir, one well, three and one-quarter miles of pipeline, twelve developed springs and eight miles of barbed wire fence. Maintenance would have a negligible effect on the wilderness values of naturalness and solitude in the 158,504 acres designated wilderness. Development of two allotment management plans (AMPs) and the anticipated construction of approximately seven and one-half miles of gap fence will have a positive effect on the area's naturalness by better distributing livestock use and improving the vegetative condition of pastures. The fences themselves will have a negligible effect on the area's naturalness since they will blend with the surroundings and required maintenance would be conducted either by horseback or from cherrystemmed roads. Existing roads and ways would be utilized, where feasible, for access during construction of these fences, otherwise, materials will be packed in by horseback.

The reservoir will require heavy maintenance every 10 to 15 years and will require two days of earthwork using tracked vehicles or a front-end loader. The majority of all other improvements, both inside and outside the suitable portion of the WSA, are located along cherrystemmed roads and would be maintained by motorized vehicles. Spring developments and fences not near a cherrystemmed road would be checked yearly either on foot or by horseback. The use of motorized vehicles within the wilderness area for normal livestock management activities would be restricted, but such use could be approved for maintenance or other activities.

Preclusion of woodland products harvest on 7,100 acres of pinyon-juniper woodland in the suitable portion would benefit the wilderness value of naturalness. Utilization of all or some of the remaining 3,750 acres of productive woodland would have a short-term negative impact upon the naturalness of those areas selected for this activity due to the removal of existing vegetation. Productive woodlands suitable for such activities primarily are located near existing roads and ways, so it is unlikely that additional access routes would be required.

All wilderness values would be maintained on 158,504 acres of the WSA. This includes areas of spectacular scenery, outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation and naturalness as well as areas containing moderate wilderness values.

Conclusion. The area's most spectacular scenery, natural areas and opportunities for primitive recreation and solitude would be retained. Lands within the WSA which have more moderate wilderness values also would be protected. This includes all of the major features such as Mt. Grant, Mt. Augusta, Deep and Cow Canyons, the majority of riparian areas and significant geologic formations. On the 37,624 acres not designated wilderness, there would be a reduction of naturalness and opportunities for solitude in the long term.

Impacts on Motorized Recreation Use

Wilderness designation would close 158,504 acres of the WSA to recreational ORV use, including eighteen miles of primitive vehicle routes. Recreational ORV use of approximately 150 visitor days would be eliminated annually from the suitable portion of the WSA. This would result in some of this use being transferred to the nonsuitable portion of the area and other public lands within the region which offer similar opportunities. In addition, use would increase on the thirty miles of cherrystem roads which extend into the WSA itself. Motorized recreational use foregone would be absorbed by surrounding public lands. The 37,624 acres of the WSA not designated wilderness, including 11 miles of roads and 21 miles of vehicle ways, would remain open to ORVs. Motorized recreational use on these lands and the cherrystemmed roads which remain open is projected to reach 1400 visitor days annually over the long term.

Conclusion. Motorized recreational use would be eliminated on the 158,504 acres designated wilderness and 150 visitor days would be foregone annually. The impacts of shifting this use to other public lands would be negligible. On the cherrystemmed roads which would remain open and the 37,624 acres of the WSA not designated as wilderness, motorized recreational use would continue to increase to approximately 1400 visitor days annually in the long term.

Impacts on Development of Mineral/Energy Resources

All lands within the 158,504 acres recommended as suitable for wilderness designation would be withdrawn from all forms of mineral entry and mineral leasing. This includes 3,000 acres with high and 155,000 acres with moderate potential for metallic mineral resources, and 158,504 acres with moderate potential for geothermal resources. Approximately 3,580 acres of the suitable parcel are covered by mining claims, however, it is anticipated that none of these claims will have valid existing rights.

All lands within the 37,624 acres recommended as unsuitable for wilderness designation would remain open for mineral entry and leasing. This includes 100 acres with high and 37,524 acres with moderate potential for metallic minerals and 5,300 acres with high and 32,224 acres with moderate potential for geothermal resources. Exploration for metallic minerals is anticipated to continue throughout the area recommended unsuitable with a total of about 80 acres of surface disturbance occurring in the foreseeable future as a result of the construction of up to 250 drill pads and 20 miles of new roads. One small surface mine, with a total surface disturbance of approximately 50 acres is expected to be developed. This is most likely to occur in the northern third of the WSA, quite possibly adjacent to the area recommended suitable for wilderness designation. Exploration and drilling for geothermal resources in the northwestern portion of the WSA is expected to disturb a total of approximately 10 acres over the long term.

Conclusion. Exploration for energy and mineral resources on 158,504 acres recommended suitable for wilderness designation would be foregone. There would be no impact on exploration activities or development of mineral and energy resources on the 37,624 acres recommended unsuitable. One small precious metals surface mine is expected to be developed in the northern portion of the WSA, adjacent to the area recommended suitable.

Impacts on Woodland Products Availability

About 7,100 acres of productive pinyon-juniper woodland within the area recommended suitable for wilderness designation would be unavailable for firewood or Christmas tree cutting or commercial harvest of pine nuts. This acreage accounts for about 19 percent of the manageable woodlands within the area covered by the Lahontan Resource Management Plan (RMP). Annual allowable harvest within the RMP area would be reduced by a similar amount. Removal of this acreage from production would result in a reduction in woodland products availability. About 3,750 acres of manageable woodland would remain available for harvest within the WSA.

Conclusion. Woodland products availability would be reduced by approximately 19 percent within the Lahontan RMP area. Eighty-one percent of the manageable woodlands within the RMP area would remain available for harvest. About 7,100 acres of productive woodland would not be available for firewood or Christmas tree cutting or commercial harvest of pine nuts.

STILLWATER RANGE WSA
(NV-030-104)

Proposed Action (Alternative D - No Wilderness)

Under the Proposed Action, the 94,607 acre Stillwater Range WSA would be recommended unsuitable for wilderness designation.

The primary impacts under this alternative relate to the effect of exploration and development of mineral and energy resources, motorized recreational use and the continuation of livestock grazing on wilderness values.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

The entire WSA would be recommended unsuitable for wilderness designation and none of the existing wilderness values would receive the special legislative protection provided by wilderness designation.

The immediate impact of this action would be negligible since little development activity is anticipated in the short term whether or not the area is designated wilderness. In the long-term, wilderness values will be degraded or lost in areas of mineral and energy exploration and development and in areas where new roads are constructed in support of these activities. This would be most noticeable around Mill, Hare and Mississippi Canyons.

Twenty-seven and one-half miles of cherrystemmed roads and 21.5 miles of primitive vehicle routes would remain open to motorized recreational use. Recreational ORV use is expected to increase from approximately 300 visitor days per year at present to about 500 visitor days annually in the foreseeable future. Although creation of new trails or ways from recreational ORV use is not anticipated, it is expected that increased use of existing roads and ways would reduce opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation and solitude slightly since visitors are more likely to see and hear ORVs in the area.

A grand total of about 650 acres would experience surface disturbance as a result of mineral and energy related activities in the foreseeable future.

Exploration for metallic minerals is expected to continue throughout the WSA, particularly in the areas around Fondaway, Cox, White Cloud, Big Elk, Mill, Mississippi and Hare Canyons, and the old Dixie Comstock Mine in the northeast part of the WSA. It is estimated this exploration will disturb about 360 acres and involve the construction of up to 1200 drill pads and 90 miles of new roads. Although much of this exploration activity will be concentrated around the canyons mentioned above, it is anticipated that virtually all of the WSA would experience some exploration, thereby adversely impacting wilderness values. Construction of roads in areas which are currently unroaded would result in detrimental impacts to both naturalness and solitude opportunities, especially since it can be expected that those roads also would be used for motorized recreation.

Development of some of the 594 existing mining claims in the WSA is anticipated due to the high to moderate potential for metallic minerals.

Over time, wilderness values would be lost in areas of development. For the purpose of this analysis, it is assumed that in the foreseeable future there would be two discoveries of mineral resources in this WSA. An estimated 210 acres of surface disturbance would be associated with developing two small surface mines. Mineral development activities would include about 10 miles of access and haul roads, open pit mines, waste dumps, tailings ponds, and mill sites. In addition, it is likely that owners of some of the 620 acres of patented mining claims within the WSA will wish to develop these lands. Construction of new access routes or improvement of existing ones would adversely impact the wilderness values of naturalness and solitude. Development of these lands could be seen from the surrounding wilderness area and would be detrimental to the area's visual resource values.

Geophysical exploration and drilling for geothermal energy along the eastern edge of the WSA would involve some cross country travel. Exploration drilling is expected to involve about 20 wells and 15 miles of road, disturbing about 30-35 acres of land. It is anticipated that a viable geothermal resource will be found and that a 15-20 megawatt plant would be constructed, with six miles of development roads, four production wells, pipelines, injection wells and a plant facility. Approximately 45 acres of surface disturbance would result from this development. As described in Chapter 1, impacts upon air quality as a result of this development would be negligible and are not an issue of concern.

Wilderness values would be degraded or lost in areas of mineral or energy exploration and development.

Continued maintenance of one well and three miles of barbed-wire fence would impact the area's naturalness and solitude slightly since there would be no monitoring or control on the use of motorized vehicles and equipment for maintenance purposes. Implementation of the Dixie Valley AMP, which includes the construction of two miles of fence and protection fencing of six spring sites with attendant water troughs placed nearby, would have a slight beneficial effect upon the area's naturalness through better distribution of livestock use and improvement in the condition of vegetative communities.

Other planned improvements include two spring developments. The impacts upon wilderness values as a result of the construction and maintenance of these improvements would be similar to those experienced as a result of maintaining existing improvements. Long-term impacts would be negligible.

Conclusion. On the 94,607 acres of the WSA, there would be a reduction of the area's naturalness and opportunities for solitude in the long term primarily because of energy and mineral exploration and development activities and continued and increasing recreational ORV use. This would be most noticeable around Mill, Mississippi and Hare Canyons.

Impacts on Motorized Recreation Use

The WSA would be open to ORV use. Recreational ORV use levels would increase to approximately 500 visitor days per year in the foreseeable future.

Conclusion. There would be no impact on motorized recreation use.

Impacts on Development of Mineral/Energy Resources

All lands within the Stillwater Range WSA would remain open for mineral entry and mineral leasing. Exploration for energy and mineral resources would continue unconstrained by wilderness considerations. This includes 2,700 acres with high and 87,600 acres with moderate potential for metallic minerals, and 26,900 acres with high and 67,700 acres with moderate potential for geothermal resources. Development of two precious metals mines and a 15-20 megawatt geothermal power plant is likely.

Because all lands would remain open, there would be no impact to exploration for, or development of, mineral and energy resources.

Conclusion. Energy and mineral resources would be available for exploration and development. There would be no impact on the exploration for, or development of, mineral resources. Development of two precious metals mines and a 15-20 megawatt geothermal power plant is anticipated.

Adverse Impacts Which Cannot Be Avoided

The only unavoidable adverse impacts would be those associated with the loss of wilderness values from mineral and energy exploration and development. Some of these impacts may be reduced by careful examination and mitigating stipulations in approved Notices of Intent and Plans of Operations.

Relationship Between Local Short-Term Uses of Man's Environment and the Maintenance and Enhancement of Long-Term Productivity

Nondesignation of the WSA would allow all present short-term uses to continue. Motorized recreational use and mineral and energy exploration and development would reduce wilderness values over the long-term.

Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources

Mineral and energy exploration and development would create an irreversible and irretrievable commitment of the wilderness resource in all or part of this WSA if not designated as wilderness.

Alternative A (All Wilderness)

Under Alternative A, the entire 94,607 acres of the Stillwater Range WSA would be recommended suitable for wilderness designation.

The primary impacts under this alternative relate to mineral and energy withdrawals, the closure of the designated wilderness to off-road motorized vehicles and the resulting effects on mineral and energy exploration and development, motorized recreational use and the protection of wilderness values.

Impacts to Wilderness Values

Under this alternative, the entire WSA would be recommended suitable for wilderness designation and wilderness values would be protected by legislative mandate. Wilderness values of naturalness and outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would be retained throughout the majority of the WSA, including the scenic Hare and Mississippi Canyon areas.

Twenty-seven and one-half miles of cherrystemmed roads would be open for vehicle access. The 94,607 acre area, including 21.5 miles of ways, would be closed to motorized recreational use. This action would eliminate approximately 100 visitor days of recreational ORV use. About 200 days of motorized recreational use still would occur along the cherrystemmed roads. This use can be expected to increase to about 390 visitor days per year in the foreseeable future. The area's naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation would improve slightly because the ways would be allowed to rehabilitate naturally and visitors would encounter or hear ORV users only near the cherrystemmed roads which remain open.

Subject to valid existing rights, wilderness designation of the Stillwater Range WSA would withdraw the area from mineral entry. It is anticipated that one claim group, probably either in upper Fondaway Canyon or in Cox Canyon, will be able to show a valid discovery of minerals. This would result in development of a surface gold and silver mine which would include about 5 miles of access and haul roads, an open pit mine, waste dump, tailings pond and mill site, with a total surface disturbance of about 105 acres. In addition, owners of some of the 620 acres of patented mining claims within the WSA are likely to pursue development of these lands. Access routes to these lands either would have to be constructed or improved. The wilderness values of naturalness and solitude would be lost in areas of development or road construction and there would be an adverse impact to the perceived naturalness of the surrounding wilderness lands by visitors viewing these activities from inside the wilderness itself.

Required maintenance would be performed for the existing well and three miles of barbed-wire fence necessary for livestock grazing management. Two miles of fencing, two spring developments and protective fencing of six other spring sources would be completed in the WSA. This would have a negligible effect on the WSA's naturalness since they will be located in several different areas and will blend with the surroundings. Development of the Dixie Valley Allotment Management Plan (AMP) will have a positive effect on the area's naturalness by better distributing livestock use and improving the vegetative condition of pastures.

The one well found in the area will require heavy maintenance every 5 years and will require the use of a boom truck for up to two days. Several other improvements would be located along cherrystemmed roads, which are outside the WSA, and would be maintained by motorized vehicles. Those improvements not near a cherry-stemmed road would be checked yearly either on foot or by horseback. The use of motorized vehicles within the wilderness area for normal livestock management activities would be restricted, but such use could be approved for maintenance or other activities.

The wilderness values of naturalness, solitude and primitive recreation would be maintained on all 94,607 acres of the WSA, except for those areas impacted by the exercise of valid existing rights.

Conclusion. All wilderness values, except in areas subject to valid existing rights, would receive Congressional protection. This includes the scenic Hare and Mississippi Canyon areas. Wilderness values would be lost on approximately 105 acres subject to valid existing rights. Visitors to the area would perceive a decrease in the naturalness and solitude opportunities of the area immediately around this activity.

Impacts on Motorized Recreation Use

Wilderness designation would close 94,607 acres of the WSA to recreational ORV use, including 21.5 miles of primitive vehicle routes. Recreational ORV use of approximately 100 visitor days would be eliminated annually from the WSA. This would result in some of this use being transferred to other public lands within the region which offer similar opportunities, as well as increased use of the 27.5 miles of cherrystemmed roads found within the WSA itself. Recreational ORV use foregone in the WSA would be absorbed on surrounding public lands.

Conclusion. Recreational ORV use would be foregone on the 94,607 acres designated wilderness and 100 visitor days would be foregone annually. The impacts of shifting this use to other public lands would be negligible.

Impacts on Development of Mineral/Energy Resources

All lands within the Stillwater Range WSA would be withdrawn from all forms of mineral entry and mineral leasing. Exploration for mineral and

energy resources would be foregone. This includes 2,700 acres with high and 87,600 acres with moderate potential for metallic mineral resources, and 26,900 acres with high and 67,000 acres with moderate potential for geothermal resources. Approximately 11,880 acres of the WSA are covered by mining claims and it is anticipated that one of these claim groups, either in Fondaway or Cox Canyons or around the old Dixie Comstock mine, would have valid existing rights and would be developed. The opportunity for development of a second precious metals mine would be foregone, since it is anticipated that only one claim group within the WSA would be able to meet the validity determination criteria. Development of a 15-20 megawatt geothermal power plant also would be foregone.

Conclusion. Exploration for mineral and energy resources would be foregone. One precious metals mine would be developed in either Fondaway or Cox Canyons on claims expected to meet all validity tests. Development of a second precious metals mine and a 15-20 megawatt geothermal power plant would be foregone.

Alternative B (Partial Wilderness)

Under this alternative, 29,797 acres of the Stillwater Range WSA would be recommended suitable for wilderness designation and 64,810 acres would be recommended unsuitable for wilderness designation.

The primary impacts under this alternative relate to the protection of wilderness values through wilderness designation, mineral and energy withdrawals and the resulting effects on naturalness, opportunities for solitude, opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation and mineral and energy exploration and development.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

All wilderness values on the 29,797 acres recommended suitable for wilderness designation would receive the special legislative protection provided by wilderness designation. The areas with the best scenery, naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would be retained. This includes the scenic Hare and Mississippi Canyon areas.

Approximately five miles of existing vehicle routes in the area recommended suitable would be closed. This would eliminate approximately 35 of the 300 visitor days of recreational ORV use estimated to occur in the WSA at present. This would marginally improve the area's naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation since all ORV use and consequent surface disturbance within the suitable portion of the WSA would be eliminated and ways would be allowed to revegetate naturally.

The 64,810 acres not designated wilderness would be open for recreational ORV use. Twenty-seven and one-half miles of roads and 16.5 miles of ways would

remain open for recreational use. Recreational use on this parcel would increase from 265 to 430 visitor days per year. This would reduce slightly the naturalness and opportunities for solitude throughout the 64,810 acres in the foreseeable future.

Development of energy and mineral resources would not affect wilderness values in the suitable parcel, since no development is expected. Exploration for metallic minerals is expected to continue throughout the 64,810 acres not designated as wilderness and should result in about 320 acres of surface disturbance in the foreseeable future due to the construction of up to 78 miles of new roads and 1100 drill pads. Much of this exploration would occur around existing areas of surface disturbance in Fondaway, Cox, White Cloud, Big Elk and Mill Canyons, and the old Dixie Comstock Mine in the northeast part of the WSA, however, it is anticipated that virtually all of the non-suitable portion would experience some exploration activity thereby adversely impacting the wilderness values found there. Construction of roads in currently unroaded areas would result in the most serious impacts to wilderness values. Two small precious metals surface mining operations are likely to be developed in the long term in one or more of the canyons mentioned above and would result in about 210 acres of surface disturbance associated with open pit mines, waste dumps, tailings ponds, mill sites and ten miles of access and haul road. In addition, it is likely that owners of some of the 620 acres of patented mining claims within the unsuitable portion of the WSA will wish to develop these lands. Construction of new access routes or improvement of existing ones would adversely impact the wilderness values of naturalness and solitude. Development of these lands could be seen from adjacent areas and would be detrimental to the area's visual resource values.

Geophysical exploration and drilling for geothermal energy along the eastern edge of the unsuitable part of the WSA would involve some cross-country travel. Exploration drilling is expected to involve about 20 wells and 15 miles of road, disturbing about 30-35 acres of land. It is anticipated that a viable geothermal resource will be found and that a 15-20 megawatt power plant would be constructed, with six miles of development roads, four production wells, pipelines, injection wells and a plant facility. Approximately 45 acres of surface disturbance would result from this development. Impacts upon air quality from this development would be negligible and, as discussed in Chapter 1, this is not an issue of concern.

Wilderness values would be degraded or lost in areas of mineral or energy exploration and development. A grand total of about 610 acres would experience surface disturbing activities.

Required maintenance would be done on one-quarter mile of barbed-wire fence. Maintenance would have a negligible effect on the wilderness values of naturalness and solitude in the 29,797 acres designated wilderness. Development of the Dixie Valley Allotment Management Plan (AMP)

and additional improvements to the White Cloud Allotment, including the construction of approximately two miles of fence, and protection fencing of two springs with attendant water troughs placed nearby, will have a positive effect on the area's naturalness by better distributing livestock use and improving the vegetative condition of pastures. Existing ways would be utilized, where feasible, for access during construction of range improvements. Otherwise, materials would be packed in by horseback. The use of motorized vehicles within the wilderness area for normal livestock management activities would be restricted, but such use could be approved for maintenance or other activities.

In the nonsuitable portion of the WSA, two and three-quarter miles of fencing and one well would be maintained. Two springs would be developed and fenced and four other springs would be fenced to protect the spring sources. Existing roads and ways would be utilized for access during construction of these improvements. If this would not be feasible, materials would be packed in by horseback. The majority of all improvements either are already located or would be located along cherrystemmed roads or ways and would be maintained by motorized vehicles on an annual basis.

All wilderness values would be maintained on 29,797 acres of the WSA. This includes those areas with the best scenery, outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation and naturalness as well as some areas containing moderate wilderness values.

Conclusion. The area's best scenery, natural areas and opportunities for primitive recreation and solitude would be retained on 29,797 acres of the WSA. This includes the scenic Hare and Mississippi Canyon areas. Lands within the WSA which have more moderate wilderness values also would be protected. On the 64,810 acres not designated wilderness, there would be a substantial reduction of wilderness values, including naturalness and opportunities for solitude, in the long term.

Impacts on Motorized Recreation Use

Wilderness designation would close 29,797 acres of the WSA to recreational ORV use, including five miles of primitive vehicle routes. Recreational ORV use of approximately 35 visitor days would be eliminated annually from the suitable portion of the WSA. This would result in this use being transferred to the nonsuitable portion of the area and other public lands within the region which offer similar opportunities. The 64,810 acres of the WSA not designated wilderness, including 27.5 miles of roads and 16.5 miles of vehicle ways, would remain open to ORVs. Motorized recreational use on these lands and the cherrystemmed roads which remain open is projected to reach 430 visitor days annually over the long term.

Conclusion. Motorized recreational use would be eliminated on the 29,797 acres designated wilderness and 35 visitor days would be foregone annually. The impacts of shifting this use to other public lands would be negligible. On the 64,810 acres of the WSA not designated as wilderness, motorized recreational use would continue to increase to approximately 430 visitor days annually in the long term.

Impacts on Development of Mineral/Energy Resources

All lands within the 29,797 acres recommended as suitable for wilderness designation would be withdrawn from all forms of mineral entry and mineral leasing. The entire suitable portion is rated as having moderate potential for both metallic mineral resources and geothermal resources. Approximately 280 acres of the suitable parcel are covered by mining claims, however, it is anticipated that none of these claims will have valid existing rights.

All lands within the 64,810 acres recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness designation would remain open for mineral entry and leasing. This includes 2,000 acres with high and 57,800 acres with moderate potential for metallic minerals and 26,900 acres with high and 37,900 acres with moderate potential for geothermal resources. Exploration for metallic minerals is anticipated to continue throughout the area recommended nonsuitable with a total of about 320 acres of surface disturbance occurring in the foreseeable future as a result of the construction of up to 1100 drill pads and 78 miles of new roads. Two surface mines with a total surface disturbance of approximately 210 acres are expected to be developed. This is most likely to occur either in Fondaway or Cox Canyons, or around the old Dixie Comstock mine. Exploration and drilling for geothermal resources along the eastern edge of the nonsuitable portion of the WSA is expected to disturb a total of approximately 30-35 acres over the long term. Development of a 15-20 megawatt geothermal power plant would disturb another 45 acres of land.

Conclusion. Exploration for energy and mineral resources on 29,797 acres recommended suitable for wilderness designation would be foregone. There would be no impact on exploration activities or development of mineral and energy resources on the 64,810 acres recommended nonsuitable. Two precious metals surface mines are expected to be developed as is a 15-20 megawatt geothermal power plant.

DESATOYA MOUNTAINS WSA
(NV-030-110/060-288)

Proposed Action (Alternative C - Partial Wilderness)

Under the Proposed Action, 43,053 acres of the Desatoya Mountains WSA would be designated wilderness. This includes 51 acres added to the original WSA to enhance manageability of the area.

The primary impacts under this alternative relate to the protection of wilderness values through wilderness designation and the resulting increases in naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

All wilderness values on the 43,053 acres recommended suitable for wilderness designation would receive the special legislative protection provided by wilderness designation. The areas of the most spectacular scenery, naturalness and outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would be retained. This includes the majority of the main ridgeline, most riparian areas and the deeply incised canyons on the west side of the WSA, most notably the well-known Dens and Willow Canyon areas.

Cherrystemmed roads totaling about 7 miles and extending into the area recommended suitable would remain open, while four miles of ways would be closed. Another 4 miles of vehicle ways and 5 miles of cherrystemmed roads form portions of the boundary between the suitable and unsuitable parcels and would remain open. This action would eliminate approximately 50 of the 400 visitor days of recreational ORV use estimated to occur in the area at present. This would improve slightly the area's naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation because surface disturbance would be eliminated on the ways which are closed and visitors would encounter or hear ORV users only near the cherrystemmed roads which remain open.

The 8,260 acres not designated wilderness would be open for recreational ORV use. Including roads and ways forming parts of the boundary between the suitable and unsuitable portions of the WSA, five miles of roads and four miles of ways would remain open for vehicle use. Recreational ORV use on this parcel (including cherrystemmed roads extending into the suitable area) would increase slightly from 350 to approximately 510 visitor days per year. This would reduce slightly the naturalness and opportunities for solitude throughout the 8,260 acres and near the cherrystemmed roads which continue to provide access to the suitable portion of the WSA.

Development of energy and mineral resources would not affect wilderness values in the suitable parcel, since no development is expected. Exploration for metallic minerals is expected to take place in the area around Dry Canyon in the unsuitable portion of the WSA and should result in about 14 acres of surface disturbance in the foreseeable future due to the construction of up to 5 miles of new roads and 35 drill pads. Construction of roads in this currently unroaded area would result in detrimental impacts to wilderness values. No development of a metallic mineral resource is expected. No geothermal or oil and gas exploration or development is anticipated in the foreseeable future.

Required maintenance would be done on two developed springs and two and one-half miles of barbed-wire fence. Maintenance will have a negligible effect on the wilderness values of naturalness and solitude in the

43,053 acres designated wilderness. All improvements would be serviced on an annual basis by motorized vehicles utilizing cherrystemmed roads.

The anticipated construction of approximately three miles of allotment boundary fence, protective fencing of six spring sources and one spring development will have a positive effect on the area's naturalness by better distributing livestock use and improving the vegetative condition of pastures. The improvements themselves will have a negligible effect on the area's naturalness since they will blend with the surroundings and required maintenance would be conducted either by horseback or from cherrystemmed roads. Existing roads and ways would be utilized, where feasible, for access during construction of these range improvements. Otherwise, materials would be packed in by horseback. The use of motorized vehicles within the wilderness for normal livestock management activities would be restricted, but such use could be approved for maintenance or other activities. Maintenance of all range improvements in the nonsuitable portion would be conducted in a similar manner and have a negligible impact on wilderness values.

It is unlikely that any development which would impact wilderness values in the area will occur on 120 acres of private land lying along a cherrystemmed road separating the suitable and nonsuitable portions of the WSA. This land is owned by the grazing permittee in that area.

Preclusion of woodland products harvest on 2,080 acres of pinyon-juniper woodland in the suitable portion would benefit the wilderness value of naturalness. Utilization of all or some of the remaining 160 acres of productive woodland would have a short-term negative impact upon the naturalness of these areas selected for this activity due to the removal of existing vegetation. Productive woodlands suitable for such activities primarily are located near existing roads and ways, so it is unlikely that additional access routes would be required.

All wilderness values would be maintained on 43,053 acres of the WSA. This includes areas of spectacular scenery, outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation, and naturalness.

Conclusion. The area's most spectacular scenery, naturalness and opportunities for primitive recreation and solitude would be retained. This includes the majority of the main ridgeline, most riparian areas and the deeply incised canyons on the west side of the WSA, most notably the well-known Dens and Willow Canyon areas. On the 8,260 acres not designated wilderness, there would be a substantial reduction of naturalness and opportunities for solitude in the long-term as a result of mineral exploration activities.

Impacts on Motorized Recreation Use

Wilderness designation would close 43,053 acres of the WSA to recreational ORV use, including four miles of primitive vehicle routes. Approximately 50 visitor days would be displaced to nearby lands within the nonsuitable portion of the WSA. Motorized recreational use foregone would be absorbed by surrounding public lands.

The 8,260 acres of the WSA not designated wilderness and 7 miles of cherrystemmed road penetrating the suitable portion of the WSA would remain open to ORVs. Recreational ORV use is projected to reach a level of 510 visitor days annually over the long-term.

Conclusion. Motorized recreational use would be eliminated on the 43,053 acres designated wilderness and 50 visitor days would be foregone annually. The impacts of shifting this use to other public lands would be negligible. On the 8,260 acres of the WSA not designated as wilderness, motorized recreational use would continue to increase to approximately 510 visitor days annually in the long-term.

Impacts on Development of Mineral/Energy Resources

All lands within the 43,053 acres recommended as suitable for wilderness designation would be withdrawn from all forms of mineral entry and mineral leasing. This includes 7,600 acres with moderate favorability for both metallic mineral and geothermal resources. Oil and gas potential is rated low throughout the area. There are no mining claims located in the suitable parcel.

All lands within the 8,260 acres recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness designation would remain open for mineral entry and leasing. This includes 5,400 acres with moderate potential for both metallic mineral and geothermal resources. In the long-term, exploration for metallic minerals is expected to take place in the area around Dry Canyon. A total of about 14 acres of surface disturbance would occur in the foreseeable future as a result of the construction of up to 35 drill pads and 5 miles of new roads. No development of a metallic mineral resource is expected. No geothermal or oil and gas exploration or development is anticipated in the foreseeable future.

Conclusion. Exploration for energy and mineral resources on 43,053 acres recommended suitable for wilderness designation would be foregone. There would be no impact on exploration activities or development of mineral and energy resources on the 8,260 acres recommended nonsuitable.

Impacts on Woodland Products Availability

About 2,080 acres of productive pinyon-juniper woodland, primarily in the southwest portion of the area recommended suitable for designation, would be unavailable for firewood cutting or commercial harvest of pine nuts. This acreage accounts for about 5.5 percent of the manageable woodlands

within the area covered by the Lahontan Resource Management Plan (RMP). Annual allowable harvest within the RMP area would be reduced by a similar amount. Approximately 160 acres of productive woodlands would still be available for these activities in the unsuitable portion of the WSA. Woodland products availability within the RMP area would be reduced slightly.

Conclusion. Woodland products availability would be reduced slightly. About 2,080 acres of productive woodland would be unavailable for firewood cutting or commercial harvest of pine nuts. Within the area covered by the Lahontan RMP, 94.5 percent of the manageable woodlands would remain available for harvest.

Adverse Impacts Which Cannot Be Avoided

On the 43,053 acres designated wilderness, there would be no unavoidable adverse impacts.

On the 8,260 acres not designated wilderness, the unavoidable adverse impacts would be those associated with energy and mineral exploration. Some of these impacts may be reduced by careful examination and mitigation stipulations in the approved Notices of Intent and Plans of Operation.

Relationship Between Local Short-Term Uses of Man's Environment and Maintenance and Enhancement of Long-Term Productivity

On the 43,053 acres designated wilderness, the wilderness values would be protected.

On the 8,260 acres not designated wilderness, all present uses would continue. Mineral exploration and attendant road construction would reduce the wilderness values in the long-term.

Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources

On the 43,053 acres designated wilderness, no irreversible or irretrievable commitment of wilderness values is expected.

On the 8,260 acres designated nonwilderness, mineral exploration would create an irreversible commitment of wilderness resources.

Alternative A (All Wilderness)

Under Alternative A, the entire 51,262 acres of the Desatoya Mountains WSA, along with 51 acres added to the original WSA to enhance manageability, would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation.

The primary impacts under this alternative relate to mineral and energy withdrawals, the closure of the designated wilderness to off-road motorized vehicles, the removal of manageable pinyon-juniper woodlands from production and the resulting effects on mineral and energy exploration and development, motorized recreational use, woodland products availability and the protection of wilderness values.

Impacts to Wilderness Values

Under this alternative, the entire WSA would be recommended suitable for wilderness designation and wilderness values would be protected by legislative mandate. Wilderness values of naturalness and outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would be retained throughout the WSA, including the main ridgeline, all riparian areas and the deeply incised canyons on the west side of the WSA, most notably the well-known Dens and Willow Canyon areas.

Twelve miles of cherrystemmed roads would be open for vehicle access. The 51,313 acre area, including 8 miles of ways, would be closed to motorized recreational use. This action would eliminate approximately 100 visitor days of recreational ORV use annually. About 300 days of motorized recreational use still would occur along the cherrystemmed roads. This use can be expected to increase to approximately 520 visitor days per year in the foreseeable future. The area's naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation would improve slightly because the ways would be allowed to rehabilitate naturally and visitors would encounter or hear ORV users only near the cherrystemmed roads which remain open.

Subject to valid existing rights, wilderness designation of the Desatoya Mountains WSA would withdraw the area from mineral entry. It is not anticipated that any valid discoveries will be proven and there should be no impacts upon wilderness values as a result of mineral or energy related activities.

Required maintenance would be performed for two developed springs and four miles of barbed wire fence necessary for livestock grazing management. Three miles of allotment boundary fence, protective fencing of six spring sources and one spring development would be completed in the WSA. Construction of these improvements would have a negligible effect on the WSA's naturalness since they would be located in several different areas and will blend with the surroundings. There may be a slight beneficial effect on the area's overall naturalness due to better distribution of livestock use and improvement in the condition of vegetative communities.

A cherrystemmed road provides access to two adjacent parcels of private land totaling 120 acres. These lands are owned by the grazing permittee in the area and it is unlikely that any major development would occur on them which might adversely impact wilderness values on surrounding lands.

Preclusion of woodland products harvest on 2,240 acres of pinyon-juniper woodland would benefit the wilderness value of naturalness.

The wilderness values of naturalness, solitude and primitive recreation, and the supplemental values of outstanding sightseeing in a diverse geologic and natural area would be maintained on all 51,313 acres of the WSA.

Conclusion. Wilderness values on all 51,313 acres of the WSA would receive Congressional protection. This includes the main ridgeline, all riparian areas and the deeply incised canyons on the west side of the WSA, most notably the well-known Dens and Willow Canyon areas.

Impacts on Motorized Recreation Use

Wilderness designation would close 51,313 acres of the WSA to recreational ORV use, including eight miles of primitive vehicle routes. Recreational ORV use of approximately 100 visitor days would be eliminated annually from the WSA. This would result in some of this use being transferred to other public lands within the region which offer similar opportunities as well as increased use of the twelve miles of cherrystemmed roads found within the WSA itself. Recreational ORV use foregone in the WSA would be absorbed on surrounding public lands.

Conclusion. Recreational ORV use would be foregone on the 51,313 acres designated wilderness and 100 visitor days would be foregone annually. The impacts of shifting this use to other public lands would be negligible.

Impacts on Development of Mineral/Energy Resource

All lands within the Desatoya Mountains WSA would be withdrawn from all forms of mineral entry and mineral leasing. Exploration for mineral and energy resources would be foregone. This includes 13,000 acres with moderate potential for both metallic mineral and geothermal resources. There are no mining claims within the WSA.

Conclusion. Exploration for mineral and energy resources would be foregone. This includes 13,000 acres with moderate potential for both metallic mineral and geothermal resources.

Impacts on Woodland Products Availability

Approximately 2,240 acres of productive pinyon-juniper woodland within the WSA would be unavailable for firewood or Christmas tree cutting or commercial harvest of pine nuts. This acreage accounts for about 6 percent of the manageable woodlands within the area covered by the Lahontan Resource Management Plan (RMP). Annual allowable harvest within the RMP area would be reduced by a similar amount. Removal of this acreage from production would result in a slight reduction in woodland products availability.

Conclusion. Woodland products availability would be reduced by approximately 6 percent within the Lahontan RMP Area. About 2,240 acres of productive pinyon-juniper woodland would be unavailable for harvest.

Alternative D (No Wilderness)

Under Alternative D, the 51,262 acre Desatoya Mountains WSA would be recommended unsuitable for wilderness designation.

The primary impacts under this alternative relate to the effect of exploration and development of mineral and energy resources, motorized recreational use and the continuation of livestock grazing on wilderness values.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

The entire WSA would be recommended unsuitable for wilderness designation and none of the existing wilderness values would receive the special legislative protection provided by wilderness designation.

The immediate impact of this action would be negligible since little development activity is anticipated in the short-term whether or not the area is designated wilderness.

Twelve miles of cherrystemmed roads and eight miles of primitive vehicle routes would remain open to motorized recreational use. Recreational ORV use is expected to increase from approximately 400 visitor days per year at present to about 600 visitor days annually in the foreseeable future. Although creation of new trails or ways for recreational ORV use is not anticipated, it is expected that increased use of existing roads and ways would reduce opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation and solitude slightly since visitors are more likely to see and hear ORVs in the area.

It is expected that, in the long-term, exploration for metallic minerals will take place in the Dry Canyon area in the northeast portion of the WSA. It is anticipated that, in the foreseeable future, this exploration will disturb about 19 acres and involve the construction of up to 50 drill pads and 6 miles of new roads.

No development of either nonmetallic or saleable mineral resources is anticipated in the foreseeable future. No geothermal or oil and gas exploration or development is expected.

Continued maintenance of two developed springs and four miles of barbed-wire fence would impact the area's naturalness and solitude slightly since there would be no monitoring or control on the use of motorized vehicles and equipment for maintenance purposes. Construction of three miles of allotment boundary fence, protection fencing of six spring sources and one spring development would have a slight beneficial effect upon the area's overall naturalness through better distribution of livestock use and improvement in the condition of vegetative communities. The impacts upon wilderness values as a result of the construction and maintenance of new improvements would be negligible.

It is unlikely that any development which would impact wilderness values in the area will occur on 120 acres of private land lying along a cherry-stemmed road within the WSA.

Utilization of all or some of the 2,240 acres of manageable pinyon-juniper woodland within the WSA for firewood cutting and commercial pine nut harvest would have a short-term negative impact upon the naturalness of those areas selected for this activity due to the removal of existing vegetation. A longer term adverse impact would accrue in the southwest portion of the WSA where wilderness values are high and additional access routes would be required in order to utilize the woodland resource. Construction of new roads would impact the area's naturalness and open the area to motorized ORV use.

Conclusion. On the 51,262 acres of the WSA, there would be a reduction of the area's naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation in the long-term primarily because of mineral exploration activities in the north, continued and increasing recreational ORV use and harvest of woodland products. This would be most noticeable around Dry Canyon in the northeast portion of the WSA and around the scenic Willow Canyon, Big Dens Canyon and Little Dens Canyon area.

Impacts on Motorized Recreation Use

The WSA would be open to ORV use. Recreational ORV use levels would increase to approximately 600 visitor days per year in the foreseeable future.

Conclusion. There would be no impact on motorized recreation use.

Impacts on Development of Mineral/Energy Resources

All lands within the Desatoya Mountains WSA would remain open for mineral entry and mineral leasing. Exploration for energy and mineral resources would be unconstrained by wilderness considerations. This includes 13,000 acres with moderate potential for both metallic mineral and geothermal resources.

Because all lands would remain open, there would be no impact to exploration for, or development of, mineral and energy resources. No development activities are anticipated in the foreseeable future.

Conclusion. Energy and mineral resources would be available for exploration and development. There would be no impact on the exploration for, or development of, mineral resources. No development activities are anticipated in the foreseeable future.

Impacts on Woodlands Products Availability

Approximately 2,240 acres of manageable pinyon-juniper woodland within the WSA would be available for firewood cutting or commercial harvest of pine nuts. There would be no impact on the availability of woodland products.

Conclusion. There would be no impact on woodland products availability. About 2,240 acres of productive woodlands, accounting for approximately 6% of the harvestable woodlands within the RMP area, would be available for woodland management.

Alternative C (Partial Wilderness)

Under this alternative, 25,498 acres of the Desatoya Mountains WSA would be recommended suitable for wilderness designation and 25,764 acres would be recommended unsuitable for wilderness designation.

The primary impacts under this alternative relate to the protection of wilderness values through wilderness designation, energy and mineral withdrawals, the removal of manageable pinyon-juniper woodlands from production and the resulting effects on mineral and energy exploration, woodland products availability and increases or decreases in naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

All wilderness values on the 25,498 acres recommended suitable for wilderness designation would receive the special legislative protection provided by wilderness designation. Areas of the most spectacular scenery, naturalness and outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would be retained. This includes most of the scenic Willow and Dens Canyons area and the majority of lands west of the main ridgeline. Areas of less impressive scenery and somewhat more moderate wilderness values would not receive the protection afforded by wilderness designation.

Three short cherrystemmed roads totaling 1.5 miles and extending into the area recommended suitable would remain open while 1.5 miles of vehicle ways would be closed. This action would eliminate approximately 20 of the 400 visitor days of recreational ORV use estimated to occur in the area at present. This would improve slightly the area's naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation since visitors would encounter or hear ORV users only near the cherrystemmed road which remains open and surface disturbance would be eliminated on the ways which are closed.

The 25,764 acres not designated wilderness would be open for recreational ORV use, including ten and one-half miles of roads and 6.5 miles of ways. Recreational use on this parcel would increase from 380 to approximately 570 visitor days per year. This slightly would reduce the naturalness and opportunities for solitude throughout the 25,764 acres in the foreseeable future.

Development of energy and mineral resources would not affect wilderness values in the suitable parcel, since no development is expected. There are no mining claims anywhere within the WSA. Exploration for metallic minerals is expected to take place, in the long-term, in the Dry Canyon area of the 25,764 parcel not designated as wilderness and should result in about 15 acres of surface disturbance in the foreseeable future due to the construction of up to 5 miles of new roads and 40 drill pads. No development of a metallic mineral resource is expected. Construction of roads and drill pads in the Dry Canyon area would result in detrimental impacts to both naturalness and solitude opportunities, especially since it can be expected that the roads also would be used eventually for motorized recreation.

No development of either nonmetallic or saleable mineral resources is anticipated in the foreseeable future. No geothermal or oil and gas exploration or development is expected.

There are no existing range improvements in the parcel recommended suitable for wilderness designation. Planned range improvements include three miles of allotment boundary fence, protective fencing of four spring sources and one spring development. Existing cherrystemmed roads would be utilized, where feasible, for access during construction. Otherwise, materials would be packed in by horseback. The use of motorized vehicles within the wilderness area for normal livestock management activities would be restricted, but such use could be approved for maintenance or other activities. Impacts upon wilderness values as a result of the construction and maintenance of range improvements would be negligible and the area's overall naturalness would improve slightly due to a better distribution of livestock use and subsequent improvement in the condition of vegetative communities.

Four miles of existing fenceline and two spring developments in the nonsuitable portion of the WSA would be maintained by vehicle, on foot or by horseback, generally on an annual basis. New range improvements to be constructed in this area consist of protective fencing of two spring sources. Construction and maintenance of these facilities also will be accomplished by vehicle, on foot or by horseback, and would have a negligible impact on wilderness values in this portion of the WSA.

A cherrystemmed road provides access to 120 acres of private land in the nonsuitable part of the WSA. This acreage is owned by the grazing permittee in the area and it is unlikely that any major development would occur on it which might impact the wilderness values of surrounding lands.

Preclusion of woodland products harvest on 1,040 acres of pinyon-juniper woodland in the suitable portion would benefit the wilderness value of naturalness. Utilization of all or some of the remaining 1,200 acres of productive woodland would have a short-term negative impact upon the naturalness of those areas selected for this activity due to the removal

of existing vegetation. A longer term adverse impact would accrue along the western edge of the WSA, outside the suitable area, where wilderness values are high and additional access routes would be required in order to utilize the woodland resource. Construction of new roads would impact the area's naturalness and open the area to motorized ORV use.

All wilderness values would be maintained on 25,498 acres of the WSA. This includes those areas of the most spectacular scenery, naturalness and outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

Conclusion. The WSA's most spectacular scenery, naturalness and opportunities for primitive recreation and solitude would be retained. This includes most of the scenic Willow and Dens Canyons area and the majority of land west of the main ridgeline. On the 25,764 acres not designated wilderness, there would be a reduction of naturalness and opportunities for solitude in the long-term due to mineral exploration activities, increased ORV use and harvest of woodland products.

Impacts on Motorized Recreation Use

Wilderness designation would close 25,498 acres of the WSA to recreational ORV use, including one and one-half miles of primitive vehicle routes. Recreational ORV use of approximately 20 visitor days would be eliminated annually from the suitable portion of the WSA. This would result in this use being transferred to the unsuitable portion of the area and other public lands within the region which offer similar opportunities. In addition, use would increase on the 1.5 miles of cherrystemmed roads which extend into the WSA itself. The 25,764 acres of the WSA not designated wilderness, including 10.5 miles of roads and 6.5 miles of vehicle ways, would remain open to ORVs. Motorized recreational use on these lands and the cherrystemmed roads which remain open is projected to reach 570 visitor days annually over the long-term.

Conclusion. Motorized recreational use would be eliminated on the 25,498 acres designated wilderness and 20 visitor days would be foregone annually. The impacts of shifting this use to other public lands would be negligible. On the cherrystemmed roads which would remain open and the 25,764 acres of the WSA not designated as wilderness, motorized recreational use would continue to increase to approximately 570 visitor days annually in the long-term.

Impacts on Development of Mineral/Energy Resources

All lands within the 25,498 acres recommended as suitable for wilderness designation would be withdrawn from all forms of mineral entry and mineral leasing. This includes 2,000 acres with moderate potential for metallic mineral resources and 100 acres with moderate potential for geothermal resources. There are no mining claims anywhere within the WSA.

All lands within the 25,764 acres recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness designation would remain open for mineral entry and leasing. This includes 11,000 acres with moderate potential for metallic minerals and 12,900 acres with moderate potential for geothermal resources. In the long-term, exploration for metallic minerals is expected to take place in the area around Dry Canyon. A total of about 15 acres of surface disturbance would occur in the foreseeable future as a result of the construction of up to 40 drill pads and 5 miles of new roads. No development of a metallic mineral resource is expected. No geothermal or oil and gas exploration or development is anticipated in the foreseeable future.

Conclusion. Exploration for energy and mineral resources on 25,498 acres recommended suitable for wilderness designation would be foregone. There would be no impact on exploration activities or development of mineral and energy resources on the 25,764 acres recommended nonsuitable.

Impacts on Woodland Products Availability

About 1,040 acres of productive pinyon-juniper woodland within the area recommended suitable for wilderness designation would be unavailable for firewood cutting or commercial harvest of pine nuts. This acreage accounts for about 3 percent of the manageable woodlands within the area covered by the Lahontan Resource Management Plan (RMP). Annual allowable harvest within the RMP area would be reduced by a similar amount. Removal of this acreage from production would result in a slight reduction in woodland products availability.

Conclusion. Woodland products availability would be reduced by approximately 3 percent within the Lahontan RMP Area. Ninety-seven percent of the manageable woodlands within the RMP area would remain available for harvest. About 1,040 acres of productive woodland would not be available for firewood cutting or commercial harvest of pine nuts.

JOB PEAK WSA
(NV-030-127)

Proposed Action (Alternative D - No Wilderness)

Under the Proposed Action, the 90,209 acre Job Peak WSA would be recommended nonsuitable for wilderness designation.

The primary impacts under this alternative relate to the effect of exploration and development of mineral and energy resources, motorized recreational use and the continuation of livestock grazing on wilderness values.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

The entire WSA would be recommended unsuitable for wilderness designation and none of the existing wilderness values would receive the special legislative protection provided by wilderness designation.

The immediate impact of this action would be negligible since little development activity is anticipated in the short-term whether or not the area is designated wilderness. In the long-term, wilderness values will be degraded or lost in areas of mineral and energy exploration and development and in areas where new roads are constructed in support of these activities. This would be most noticeable on the eastern alluvial fans and around Poco, Pete and West Lee Canyons. Twenty-one miles of cherrystemmed roads and eleven miles of primitive vehicle routes would remain open to motorized recreational use. Recreational ORV use is expected to increase from approximately 340 visitor days per year at present to about 580 visitor days annually in the foreseeable future. Although creation of new trails or ways from recreational ORV use is not anticipated, it is expected that increased use of existing roads and ways would reduce opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation and solitude slightly since visitors are more likely to see and hear ORVs in the area.

Exploration for metallic minerals is expected to continue throughout the WSA, but primarily in the areas around Poco, Pete and West Lee Canyons. It is estimated this exploration will disturb about 187 acres and involve the construction of up to 600 drill pads and 50 miles of new roads. Although much of this exploration activity will be concentrated around the canyons mentioned above, it is anticipated that virtually all of the WSA would experience some exploration, thereby adversely impacting wilderness values. Construction of roads in areas which are currently unroaded would result in detrimental impacts to both naturalness and solitude opportunities, especially since it can be expected that those roads also would be used for motorized recreation.

No development of metallic mineral resources is expected in the foreseeable future.

Geophysical exploration and drilling for geothermal energy along the alluvial fan on the eastern side of the WSA would involve some cross-country travel. Exploration drilling is expected to result in about 5 wells and 8 miles of road, disturbing about 16 acres of land. It is anticipated that a viable geothermal resource will be found and that a 5 megawatt plant would be constructed, with four miles of development roads, two production wells, pipelines, injection wells and a plant facility. Approximately 15 acres of surface disturbance would result from this development. Impacts to air quality would be negligible and, as discussed in Chapter 1, this is not an issue of concern.

Wilderness values would be degraded or lost in areas of mineral or energy exploration and development. A grand total of 218 acres is expected to experience surface disturbing activities in the foreseeable future.

Continued maintenance of 55 small spring developments, 9 miles of water pipeline and associated stock tanks, twelve miles of fenceline, four line shacks and two corrals would impact the area's naturalness and solitude slightly since there would be no monitoring or control on the use of motorized vehicles and equipment for maintenance purposes. Construction of additional range improvements, including three miles of fencing, protective fencing of seven other springs, two miles of pipeline and construction of a one acre reaper (precipitation catchment apron with storage tank and water trough), would have a slight beneficial effect upon the area's naturalness through better distribution of livestock use and improvement in the condition of vegetative communities. The pipeline and reaper are projects which are "grandfathered" since they were authorized under an allotment management plan signed in 1970. The impacts upon wilderness values as a result of the construction and maintenance of these improvements would be similar to those experienced as a result of maintaining existing improvements. Long-term impacts would be negligible.

Conclusion. On the 90,209 acres of the WSA, there would be a reduction of the area's naturalness and opportunities for solitude in the long-term. This would be most apparent along the eastern alluvial fans and around Poco, Pete and West Lee Canyons.

Impacts on Motorized Recreation Use

The WSA would be open to ORV use. Recreational ORV use levels would increase to approximately 580 visitor days per year in the foreseeable future.

Conclusion. There would be no impact on motorized recreation use.

Impacts on Development of Mineral/Energy Resources

All lands within the Job Peak WSA would remain open for mineral entry and mineral leasing. Exploration for energy and mineral resources would continue unconstrained by wilderness considerations. This includes 85,260 acres with moderate potential for metallic minerals, and 39,000 acres with high and 51,200 acres with moderate potential for geothermal resources.

Because all lands would remain open, there would be no impact to exploration for, or development of, mineral and energy resources.

Conclusion. Energy and mineral resources would be available for exploration and development. There would be no impact on the exploration for, or development of, mineral and energy resources. Development of a five megawatt geothermal power plant is anticipated.

Adverse Impacts Which Cannot Be Avoided

The only unavoidable adverse impacts would be those associated with the loss of wilderness values from mineral and energy exploration and development. Some of these impacts may be reduced by careful examination and mitigating stipulations in approved Notices of Intent and Plans of Operations.

Relationship Between Local Short-Term Uses of Man's Environment and the Maintenance and Enhancement of Long-Term Productivity

Nondesignation of the WSA would allow all present short-term uses to continue. Motorized recreational use and mineral and energy exploration and development would reduce wilderness values over the long-term.

Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources

Mineral and energy exploration and development would create an irreversible and irretrievable commitment of the wilderness resource in all or part of this WSA if not designated as wilderness.

Alternative A (All Wilderness)

Under Alternative A, the entire 90,209 acres of the Job Peak WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation.

The primary impacts under this alternative relate to mineral and energy withdrawals, the closure of the designated wilderness to off-road motorized vehicles and the resulting effects on mineral and energy exploration and development, motorized recreational use and the protection of wilderness values.

Impacts to Wilderness Values

Under this alternative, the entire WSA would be recommended suitable for wilderness designation and wilderness values would be protected by legislative mandate. Wilderness values of naturalness and outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would be retained throughout the WSA, including the scenic, deeply incised canyons in the northeast portion of the WSA and the rolling, sparsely vegetated hills in the south and west.

Twenty-one miles of cherrystemmed roads would be open for vehicle access. The 90,209 acre area, including 11 miles of ways, would be closed to motorized recreational use. This action would eliminate approximately 70 visitor days of recreational use. About 270 days of motorized recreational use still would occur along the cherrystemmed roads. It is estimated that recreational ORV use would increase to about 525 visitor days per year in the foreseeable future. The area's naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation would improve slightly because the ways would be allowed to rehabilitate naturally and visitors would encounter or hear ORV users only near the cherrystemmed roads which remain open.

Subject to valid existing rights, wilderness designation of the Job Peak WSA would withdraw the area from mineral entry. It is not anticipated that any valid discoveries will be proven and there should be no impacts upon wilderness values as a result of mineral or energy related activities.

Required maintenance would be performed for the existing twelve miles of barbed-wire fence, 55 small spring developments, 9 miles of water pipeline and associated stock tanks, 4 line shacks and 2 corrals necessary for live-stock grazing management. Three miles of fencing, protective fencing of seven other spring sources, two miles of water pipeline and a one-acre reaper would be constructed. The reaper and new pipeline were approved in an allotment management plan which predates FLPMA. Construction of these improvements would have a negligible effect on the WSA's naturalness since they will be located in several different areas and generally will blend with the surroundings. There will be a slight positive effect on the area's naturalness by better distributing livestock use and improving the vegetative condition of pastures.

Several improvements would be located along cherrystemmed roads, which are outside the WSA, and would be maintained by motorized vehicles. Those new and existing improvements not near a cherrystemmed road would be checked yearly either on foot or by horseback. The use of motorized vehicles within the wilderness area for normal livestock management activities would be restricted, but such use could be approved for maintenance or other activities.

The wilderness values of naturalness, solitude and primitive recreation would be maintained on all 90,209 acres of the WSA.

Conclusion. All wilderness values in the 90,209 acre WSA would receive Congressional protection. This includes the scenic, deeply incised canyons in the northeast portion of the WSA and the rolling, sparsely vegetated hills in the south and west.

Impacts on Motorized Recreation Use

Wilderness designation would close 90,209 acres of the WSA to recreational ORV use, including 11 miles of primitive vehicle routes. Recreational ORV use of approximately 70 visitor days would be eliminated annually from the WSA. This would result in some of this use being transferred to other public lands within the region which offer similar opportunities, as well as increased use of the 21 miles of cherrystemmed roads found within the WSA itself. Recreational ORV use foregone in the WSA would be absorbed on surrounding public lands.

Conclusion. Recreational ORV use would be foregone on the 90,209 acres designated wilderness and 70 visitor days would be foregone annually. The impacts of shifting this use to other public lands would be negligible.

Impacts on Development of Mineral/Energy Resources

All lands within the Job Peak WSA would be withdrawn from all forms of mineral entry and mineral leasing. Exploration for mineral and energy resources would be foregone. This includes 85,260 acres with moderate potential for metallic mineral resources, and 39,000 acres with high and 51,200 acres with moderate potential for geothermal resources. Development of a five megawatt geothermal power plant would be foregone. Approximately 4,700 acres of the WSA are covered by mining claims, however, it is not anticipated that any of these claims would meet the validity criteria.

Conclusion. Exploration for mineral and energy resources would be foregone. This includes 85,260 acres with moderate potential for metallic minerals, and 39,000 acres with high and 51,200 acres with moderate potential for geothermal resources. Development of a five megawatt geothermal power plant would be foregone.

Alternative B (Partial Wilderness)

Under this alternative, 37,477 acres of the Job Peak WSA would be recommended suitable for wilderness designation and 52,732 acres would be recommended unsuitable for wilderness designation.

The primary impacts under this alternative relate to the protection of wilderness values through wilderness designation, mineral and energy withdrawals and the resulting effects on naturalness, opportunities for solitude, opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation and mineral and energy exploration and development.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

All wilderness values on the 37,477 acres recommended suitable for wilderness designation would receive the special legislative protection provided by wilderness designation. The areas with the best scenery, naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would be retained. In addition, areas of less impressive scenery and moderate wilderness values would receive the protection afforded by wilderness designation. This includes the scenic, deeply incised canyons in the northeast portion of the WSA and the rolling, sparsely vegetated hills to the west.

Approximately seven miles of existing vehicle routes in the area recommended suitable would be closed. This would eliminate approximately 60 of the 340 visitor days of recreational ORV use estimated to occur in the WSA at present. This would marginally improve the area's naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation since all ORV use and consequent surface disturbance within the suitable portion of the WSA would be eliminated and ways would be allowed to revegetate naturally.

The 52,732 acres not designated wilderness would be open for recreational ORV use. Twenty-one miles of roads and 4 miles of ways would remain open for recreational use. Recreational use on this parcel would increase from 280 to 460 visitor days per year. This would reduce slightly the naturalness and opportunities for solitude throughout the 52,732 acres in the foreseeable future.

Development of energy and mineral resources would not affect wilderness values in the suitable parcel, since no development is expected. Exploration for metallic minerals is expected to continue throughout the 52,732 acres not designated as wilderness although the greatest concentration of activities will be around Poco and Pete Canyons. This should result in about 134 acres of surface disturbance in the foreseeable future due to the construction of up to 37 miles of new roads and 410 drill pads. Construction of roads in currently unroaded areas would result in the most detrimental impacts to wilderness values. Development of metallic mineral resources is not expected in the foreseeable future.

Geophysical exploration and drilling for geothermal energy along the alluvial fan on the eastern side of the WSA in the nonsuitable portion of the unit would involve some cross-country travel. Exploration drilling is expected to involve about 5 wells and 8 miles of road, disturbing about 16 acres of land. It is anticipated that a viable geothermal resource will be found and that a five megawatt power plant would be constructed, with four miles of development roads, two production wells, pipelines, injection wells and a plant facility. Approximately 15 acres of surface disturbance would result from this development. Impacts to air quality would be negligible and, as discussed in Chapter 1, this is not an issue of concern.

Wilderness values would be degraded or lost in areas of mineral or energy exploration and development. A grand total of 165 acres is expected to experience surface disturbing activities in the foreseeable future.

In the area recommended suitable, required maintenance would be done on seven miles of barbed-wire fence, 40 small spring developments, three miles of water pipeline, four line shacks and two corrals. Maintenance would have a negligible effect on the wilderness values of naturalness and solitude in the 37,477 acres designated wilderness. Construction of approximately three miles of fence, protection fencing around five springs with attendant water troughs placed nearby, two miles of pipeline and a one acre reaper will have a slight positive effect on the area's naturalness by better distributing livestock use and improving the vegetative condition of pastures. The pipeline and reaper are projects authorized under an allotment management plan signed in 1970. Existing roads and ways would be utilized, where feasible, for access during construction of range improvements. Otherwise, materials would be packed in by horseback. The use of motorized vehicles within the wilderness area for normal livestock management activities would be restricted, but such use could be approved for maintenance or other activities.

In the nonsuitable portion of the WSA, 15 small spring developments, six miles of water pipeline, and five miles of fenceline would be maintained. Protection fencing for two springs would be constructed. Existing roads and ways would be utilized for access during construction of these improvements. If this would not be feasible, materials would be packed in by horseback. The majority of all improvements, with the exception of spring developments, are already located along cherrystemmed roads or ways, and would be maintained by motorized vehicles, on foot or by horseback, generally on an annual basis.

All wilderness values would be maintained on 37,477 acres of the WSA. This includes those areas with the best scenery, outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation and naturalness as well as other areas containing moderate wilderness values.

Conclusion. The area's best scenery, natural areas and opportunities for primitive recreation and solitude would be retained as well as areas with moderate wilderness values. This includes the scenic, deeply incised canyons in the northeast part of the WSA and the rolling, sparsely vegetated hills to the west. On the 52,732 acres not designated wilderness, there would be a reduction of wilderness values, including naturalness and opportunities for solitude, in the long-term.

Impacts on Motorized Recreation Use

Wilderness designation would close 37,477 acres of the WSA to recreational ORV use, including seven miles of primitive vehicle routes. Recreational ORV use of approximately 60 visitor days would be eliminated annually from the suitable portion of the WSA. This would result in this use being transferred to the nonsuitable portion of the area and other public lands within the region which offer similar opportunities. The 52,732 acres of the WSA not designated wilderness, including 21 miles of roads and 4 miles of vehicle ways, would remain open to ORVs. Motorized recreational use on these lands and the cherrystemmed roads which remain open is projected to reach 460 visitor days annually over the long-term.

Conclusion. Motorized recreational use would be eliminated on the 37,477 acres designated wilderness and 60 visitor days would be foregone annually. The impacts of shifting this use to other public lands would be negligible. On the 52,732 acres of the WSA not designated as wilderness, motorized recreational use would continue to increase to approximately 460 visitor days annually in the long-term.

Impacts on Development of Mineral/Energy Resources

All lands within the 37,477 acres recommended as suitable for wilderness designation would be withdrawn from all forms of mineral entry and mineral leasing. This includes 32,700 acres with moderate potential for metallic mineral resources and 1,400 acres with high and 36,000 acres with moderate

potential for geothermal resources. Approximately 1,480 acres of the suitable parcel are covered by mining claims, however, it is anticipated that none of these claims will have valid existing rights. All lands within the 52,732 acres recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness designation would remain open for mineral entry and leasing. This includes 52,560 acres with moderate potential for metallic minerals and 37,600 acres with high and 15,200 acres with moderate potential for geothermal resources. Exploration for metallic minerals is anticipated to continue throughout the area recommended nonsuitable, although the greatest concentration of activities will be around Poco and Pete Canyons. About 134 acres of surface disturbance would occur in the foreseeable future in this part of the WSA as a result of the construction of up to 410 drill pads and 37 miles of new roads. No development of a metallic mineral resource is anticipated in the foreseeable future. Exploration and drilling for geothermal resources along the alluvial fan on the eastern side of the nonsuitable portion of the WSA is expected to disturb a total of approximately 16 acres over the long-term. Development of a five megawatt geothermal power plant would disturb another 15 acres of land.

Conclusion. Exploration for energy and mineral resources on 37,477 acres recommended suitable for wilderness designation would be foregone. There would be no impact on exploration activities or development of mineral and energy resources on the 52,732 acres recommended nonsuitable. It is anticipated that a five megawatt geothermal power plant will be developed.

Alternative C (Partial Wilderness)

Under this alternative, 20,522 acres of the Job Peak WSA would be recommended suitable for wilderness designation and 69,687 acres would be recommended nonsuitable for wilderness designation.

The primary impacts under this alternative relate to the protection of wilderness values through wilderness designation, mineral and energy withdrawals and the resulting effects on naturalness, opportunities for solitude, opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation and mineral and energy exploration and development.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

All wilderness values on the 20,522 acres recommended suitable for wilderness designation would receive the special legislative protection provided by wilderness designation. The areas with the best scenery, naturalness and outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would be retained. This includes the scenic, deeply incised canyons in the northeast portion of the WSA.

Approximately two miles of existing vehicle routes in the area recommended suitable would be closed. This would eliminate about 20 of the 340 visitor days of recreational ORV use estimated to occur in the WSA at present. There would be a marginal improvement in the area's naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation since all ORV use and consequent surface disturbance within the suitable portion of the WSA would be eliminated and ways would be allowed to revegetate naturally.

The 69,687 acres not designated wilderness would be open for recreational ORV use. Twenty-one and three-tenths miles of roads and 9 miles of ways would remain open for recreational use. Recreational use on this parcel would increase from 320 to 540 visitor days per year. This would reduce slightly the naturalness and opportunities for solitude throughout the 69,687 acres in the foreseeable future.

Development of energy and mineral resources would not affect wilderness values in the suitable parcel, since no development is expected. Exploration for metallic minerals is expected to continue throughout the 69,687 acres not designated as wilderness, although the greatest concentration of activities will be around West Lee, Poco and Pete Canyons. This should result in about 147 acres of surface disturbance in the foreseeable future due to the construction of up to 41 miles of new roads and 450 drill pads. Construction of roads in currently unroaded areas would result in the most detrimental impacts to wilderness values. Development of metallic mineral resources is not expected in the foreseeable future.

Geophysical exploration and drilling for geothermal energy along the alluvial fan on the eastern side of the WSA in the unsuitable portion of the unit would involve some cross-country travel. Exploration drilling is expected to involve about 5 wells and 8 miles of road, disturbing about 16 acres of land. It is anticipated that a viable geothermal resource will be found and that a five megawatt power plant would be constructed, with four miles of development roads, two production wells, pipelines, injection wells and a plant facility. Approximately 15 acres of surface disturbance would result from this development. Impacts to air quality would be negligible and, as discussed in Chapter 1, this is not an issue of concern.

Wilderness values would be degraded or lost in areas of mineral or energy exploration and development. A grand total of 178 acres is expected to experience surface disturbing activities in the foreseeable future.

In the area recommended suitable, required maintenance would be done on three miles of barbed-wire fence, 35 small spring developments, and two line shacks. Maintenance would have a negligible effect on the wilderness values of naturalness and solitude in the 20,522 acres designated wilderness. Construction of approximately three miles of fence, protection fencing around three springs with attendant water troughs placed nearby, and two miles of pipeline will have a slight positive effect on the area's

naturalness by better distributing livestock use and improving the vegetative condition of pastures. The pipeline is a project authorized under an allotment management plan signed in 1970. Existing roads and ways would be utilized, where feasible, for access during construction of range improvements. Otherwise, materials would be packed in by horseback. The use of motorized vehicles within the wilderness area for normal livestock management activities would be restricted, but such use could be approved for maintenance or other activities.

In the nonsuitable portion of the WSA, twenty small spring developments, nine miles of water pipeline, nine miles of fenceline, two line shacks and two corrals would be maintained. Protection fencing around four springs and a one-acre reaper would be constructed. Existing roads and ways would be utilized for access during construction of these improvements. If this would not be feasible, materials would be packed in by horseback. The majority of all improvements, with the exception of spring developments, either are already located or would be located along cherrystemmed roads or ways, and would be maintained by motorized vehicles, on foot or by horseback, generally on an annual basis.

All wilderness values would be maintained on 20,522 acres of the WSA. This includes those areas with the best scenery, naturalness and outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

Conclusion. The area's best scenery, natural areas and opportunities for primitive recreation and solitude would be retained. This includes the scenic, deeply incised canyons in the northeast portion of the WSA. On the 69,687 acres not designated wilderness, there would be a reduction of wilderness values, including naturalness and opportunities for solitude, in the long-term.

Impacts on Motorized Recreation Use

Wilderness designation would close 20,522 acres of the WSA to recreational ORV use, including two miles of primitive vehicle routes. Recreational ORV use of approximately 20 visitor days would be eliminated annually from the suitable portion of the WSA. This would result in this use being transferred to the nonsuitable portion of the area and other public lands within the region which offer similar opportunities. The 69,687 acres of the WSA not designated wilderness, including 21 miles of roads and 9 miles of vehicle ways, would remain open to ORVs. Motorized recreational use on these lands and the cherrystemmed roads which remain open is projected to reach 540 visitor days annually over the long-term.

Conclusion. On the 20,522 acres designated, ORV use would be eliminated and 20 visitor days would be foregone annually. The impact of shifting this use to other public lands would be negligible. On the 69,687 acres not designated, ORV use would increase to about 540 visitor days annually in the long-term.

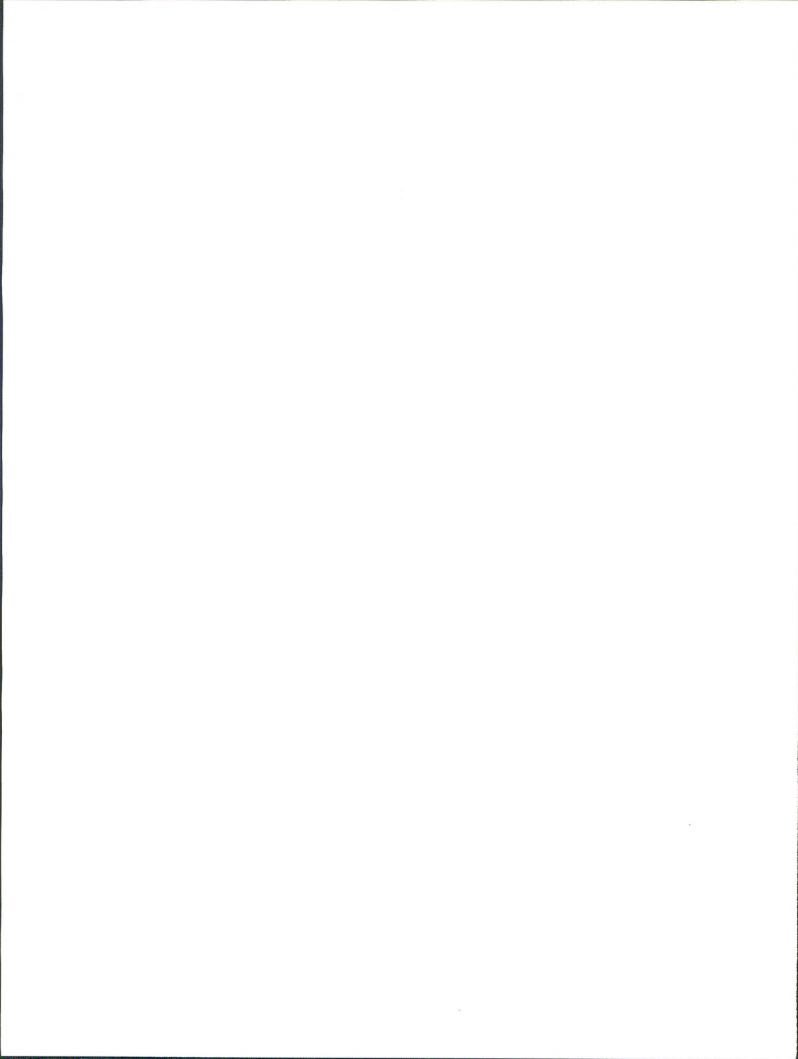
Impacts on Development of Mineral/Energy Resources

All lands within the 20,522 acres recommended as suitable for wilderness designation would be withdrawn from all forms of mineral entry and mineral leasing. This includes 14,700 acres with moderate potential for metallic mineral resources and 1,400 acres with high and 19,100 acres with moderate potential for geothermal resources. Approximately 500 acres of the suitable parcel are covered by mining claims, however, it is anticipated that none of these claims will have valid existing rights. All lands within the 69,687 acres recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness designation would remain open for mineral entry and leasing. This includes 70,560 acres with moderate potential for metallic minerals, and 37,600 acres with high and 32,100 acres with moderate potential for geothermal resources. Exploration for metallic minerals is anticipated to continue throughout the area recommended nonsuitable, although the greatest concentration of activities will be around Poco, West Lee and Pete Canyons. About 147 acres of surface disturbance would occur in the foreseeable future in this part of the WSA as a result of the construction of up to 450 drill pads and 41 miles of new roads. No development of a metallic mineral resource is anticipated in the foreseeable future. Exploration and drilling for geothermal resources along the alluvial fan on the eastern side of the nonsuitable portion of the WSA is expected to disturb a total of approximately 16 acres over the long-term. Development of a five megawatt geothermal power plant would disturb another 15 acres of land.

Conclusion. Exploration for energy and mineral resources on 20,522 acres recommended suitable for wilderness designation would be foregone. There would be no impact on exploration activities or development of mineral and energy resources on the 69,687 acres recommended nonsuitable. It is anticipated that a five megawatt geothermal power plant will be developed.

CHAPTER FIVE

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION



CHAPTER 5

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

INTRODUCTION

Public involvement has been an integral part of the wilderness review process in the Lahontan Resource Area since its inception in 1978. Formal and informal consultation and coordination began with the initial inventory of public lands to determine their wilderness potential. Meetings and briefings were held to keep the public informed of the ongoing process and to elicit comments and concerns. Contact was made with various Federal and State agencies and local county governments at the outset and continued throughout both the initial and intensive wilderness inventories. Many written comments were received during the inventory process and are on file and available for review in the Carson City District Office.

A draft resource management plan/environmental impact statement (RMP/EIS) for the Lahontan Resource Area was published in 1983. Because the alternatives in that document included recommendations as to designation or nondesignation as wilderness of the four wilderness study areas (WSAs), public involvement from the beginning of the RMP/EIS process (described below) provided an opportunity for public comment regarding the WSAs. Consultation and coordination requirements for the wilderness element of the Lahontan RMP/EIS were met as part of the overall planning effort. Comments and concerns of public land users and other interested individuals and organizations have been important elements in the planning process and they will continue to be important in the decision making and implementation processes.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

A Notice of Intent to commence land use planning for the Lahontan Resource Area was published in the Federal Register in July, 1981. News releases were issued to all local newspapers and an open invitation letter was sent out to approximately 500 persons and groups on the planning and wilderness mailing lists announcing the beginning of the issue identification phase of the resource management plan. These announcements explained the purpose of the plan and the manner in which the public could participate in the planning process.

Three public workshops were held to identify issues to be addressed in the RMP. Two of these workshops were held in Carson City on July 27 and one in Fallon on July 28, 1981. Briefings on the planning process and issue identification were given to the District Advisory Council (a 10-member group of citizens representing such interests as ranching, wildlife, mining, elected government, environmental conservation and the public-at-large) and the Grazing Advisory Board for the Carson City District. Bureau personnel also met with the various county commissions as well as representatives of the Fallon Naval Air Station throughout the year to inform them about the planning process, and to identify concerns of these bodies regarding resource uses in their areas. A 45-day formal comment period regarding the potential issues began July 9, 1981 and ended August 28, 1981. The results of this public input was combined with input from BLM staff specialists to identify and develop a set of planning issues for the RMP.

A Notice of Intent to develop alternatives for the RMP was published in the Federal Register in May 1983. On May 10, 1983, another news release was circulated through the local newspapers opening a 30 day comment period on alternatives. An informational letter, which included a summary of the alternatives which had been developed was sent to over 500 individuals, organizations and agencies on the mailing list. Twenty-nine comment letters were received before the close of the comment period on June 10, 1983.

The Draft Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement was filed with the Environmental Protection Agency and made available to the public on October 7, 1983, the same date that a Notice of Availability of the Draft RMP/EIS was published in the Federal Register. This notice announced that the review period was to end on January 3, 1984, and included notification of public hearings to be held on November 9 in Reno and November 10 in Fallon, Nevada. Subsequently, a third public hearing was scheduled, in response to public requests, for December 1, 1983, in Carson City. This comment period and these public hearings provided concerned agencies and publics an opportunity to review the Draft RMP/EIS and express their views on its content.

The Draft RMP/EIS or a summary of it was sent to all agencies, organizations, and individuals who had indicated an interest in the planning or wilderness process. The times and locations of the scheduled public hearings were included in a cover letter. The Lahontan Wilderness Technical Report was made available upon request as were copies of the Draft RMP/EIS for those on the mailing list who had only received a summary. (Distribution of summaries was necessitated due to the large number of names on the mailing list - individuals and organizations known to be actively interested in the RMP process received a copy of the complete text of the RMP/EIS). Reading copies of the RMP/EIS were distributed to public libraries and BLM offices in Nevada. A news release was sent to all local and regional news media announcing the availability of the RMP/EIS and the dates for each hearing.

Three public hearings were held during the public review period on the draft. A total of 84 people attended these hearings with 37 of them making an oral statement.

Transcripts of the public hearings are available for inspection at the Carson City District Office at 1535 Hot Springs Road, Suite 300, Carson City; or at the Nevada State Office, 850 Harvard Way, Reno, Nevada.

A total of 57 letters of comment were received during the public review period on the draft RMP/EIS, of which 50 discussed the wilderness issue. In addition, 35 persons out of the 37 who made a statement at the public hearings spoke regarding the wilderness issue: twenty-two in Reno; five in Fallon; and eight in Carson City.

All letters and testimony were reviewed to determine if they met the required criteria for response, i.e., discussion of the adequacy of the draft environmental impact statement. Substantive comments which presented new data, questioned facts and/or analyses, or commented on issues bearing directly on the draft environmental impact statement or the environmental impacts of the

alternatives were fully evaluated and given responses. Changes or additions to the draft environmental impact statement relating to the wilderness issue have been incorporated into this final wilderness environmental impact statement.

CONSISTENCY WITH OTHER PLANS

No inconsistencies exist between the designation of an area as wilderness and the officially approved and adopted resource related plans of other Federal agencies, State and local governments, or Indian tribes. However, several governmental bodies have made general statements regarding the possible designation of wilderness areas in the Lahontan Resource Area.

- Federal Agencies

The Department of the Navy, through the Fallon Naval Air Station, generally opposes wilderness designations in the Lahontan Resource Area citing the belief that existing air operations in the area eliminate solitude opportunities and that such designation could constrain air warfare training activities at some future date. Their greatest concern involves those areas bordering Dixie Valley, namely the west half of the Clan Alpines WSA and the eastern half of both the Stillwater Range and Job Peak WSAs.

According to the Wilderness Management Policy, designation by itself will not affect overflights by military aircraft. Limitation may occur only with the consent of the proper military authorities and the FAA.

- State Agencies

The Nevada Division of State Parks has stated that designation of wilderness areas is consistent with the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) in that it would "preserve a representative cross section of Nevada's Nevada's roadless, undeveloped areas in wilderness". While recognizing that all four WSAs have wilderness values of varying degrees, State Parks strongly recommends designation for the Desatoya Mountains WSA and gives qualified support for designation of the Clan Alpines WSA.

Governor Richard H. Bryan, offering the consensus position for the State Departments of Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources, Minerals and Wildlife, supports the Proposed Action for each of the four WSAs. The State initially opposed a suitability recommendation for the Clan Alpine Mountains WSA, however, on July 31, 1984, it dropped its objections and now supports the Proposed Action for this area.

- County Governments

The General Plan for Churchill County does not specifically address the subject of wilderness designation, however, the county commissioners have consistently gone on record as opposing designation of any land in the county as wilderness. Both the county commissioners and the county planning commission have stated that the areas recommended suitable under the

Proposed Action have certain merit as potential wilderness areas, however, they are still concerned about both the possible economic effects which designation might have on the county and the BLM's ability to effectively manage these areas as wilderness.

The Lander County Commissioners have passed a resolution stating that they believe no lands within the county are suitable for designation as wilderness.

- Native Americans

Representatives of four Native American groups in the area have been invited to comment and to attend public meetings during the review process. The Bureau knows of no conflicts between wilderness designation and Native American traditional or religious uses of the land.

COORDINATION

The following agencies, organizations and individuals received either a copy of the draft RMP/EIS or a summary of it:

Federal Agencies

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Department of Agriculture
 Forest Service
 Soil Conservation Service
 Stabilization and Conservation Service
Department of Defense
 Department of the Navy
Department of Energy
Department of the Interior
 Bureau of Indian Affairs
 Bureau of Mines
 Bureau of Reclamation
 Fish and Wildlife Service
 Geological Survey
 National Park Service
Department of Transportation
Environmental Protection Agency

Nevada State Agencies

Department of Conservation & Natural Resources
Department of Wildlife
Legislative Counsel Bureau
Nevada State Clearinghouse
Office of the Governor, Nevada

Nevada Local Agencies

Churchill County Commissioners
Lyon County Commissioners
Mineral County Commissioners
Nye County Planner
Storey County Commissioners

Native Americans

Fallon-Paiute Shoshone Business Council
International Council of Nevada
Walker River Paiute Tribal Council
Yerington Paiute Tribe

University of Nevada

Max C. Fleischmann College of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service
Division of Agricultural and Resource Economics
Division of Animal Science
Division of Renewable Natural Resources
Desert Research Institute, Las Vegas and Reno
Mackay School of Mines
Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology

Congressional Representatives

Senator Chic Hecht
Senator Paul Laxalt
Congressman Harry Reid
Congresswoman Barbara Vucanovich

Nevada State Legislators

Senator Lawrence Jacobsen
Assemblyman Joseph Dini
Assemblyman Virgil Getto

Others

American Horse Protection Association, Inc.
Audubon Society, Lahontan Chapter
Grazing Permittees within the Lahontan Resource Area
International Society for the Protection of Mustangs and Burros
Mining Interests
National Council of Public Land Users, Colorado
National Public Lands Task Force
National Wildlife Federation
Natural Resources Defense Council

Nevada Cattlemen's Association
Nevada Outdoor Recreation Association
Nevada Wildlife Federation
Nevada Woolgrowers Association
Northern Nevada Native Plant Society
Pacific Legal Foundation
Private citizens who have participated in the planning process
Private citizens who have requested a copy of the plan
Public Lands Council
Sierra Club
Sierra Pacific Power Company
Society for Range Management
Wilderness Society
Wild Horse Organized Assistance
Wildlife Management Institute
Wildlife Society, Nevada Chapter

Copies of the draft RMP/EIS and of this final environmental impact statement will be available at the following BLM offices and public libraries:

Bureau of Land Management Offices

Office of Public Affairs
Bureau of Land Management
18th and C Streets
Washington, D.C. 20240

Nevada State Office
850 Harvard Way
P.O. Box 12000
Reno, Nevada 89520

Battle Mountain District Office
North 2nd and Scott Street
P.O. Box 194
Battle Mountain, Nevada 89820

Carson City District Office
1535 Hot Springs Road, Suite 300
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Elko District Office
2002 Idaho Street
Elko, Nevada 89801

Ely District Office
Star Route 5, Box 1
Ely, Nevada 89301

Las Vegas District Office
4765 West Vegas Drive
Las Vegas, Nevada 89102

Winnemucca District Office
705 East 4th Street
Winnemucca, Nevada 89445

Public Libraries

Churchill County Public Library
553 South Main Street
Fallon, Nevada 89406

Carson City Library
900 N. Roop St.
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Lyon County Library
Yerington, Nevada

Mineral County Library
1st and D Streets
Hawthorne, Nevada 89415

Nevada State Library
Library Building
Carson City, Nevada 89710

Nye County Library
Tonopah, Nevada 89049

University of Nevada, Las Vegas
James R. Dickinson Library
4505 Maryland Parkway
Las Vegas, Nevada 89154

University of Nevada, Reno
Getchall Library
Reno, Nevada 89507

Washoe County Library
1301 South Center Street
Reno, Nevada 89505

LIST OF PREPARERS

A list of the persons involved in the preparation of this EIS is provided in Table 5-1.

TABLE 5-1
LIST OF PREPARERS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Responsibility</u>	<u>Education</u>	<u>Experience</u>
Terry Knight	Team Leader	BSFS International Affairs MS Outdoor Recreation/Land Use Planning	BLM - 8 years Outdoor Recreation Planner/ Wilderness Specialist DHEW - 3 years Program Analyst
Linda Hansen	Editor	AA Social Science	BLM - 6 years Administra- tion/Personnel, 3 years Editor
Sharlene Davis	Word Processor Operator	AA Liberal Arts	BLM - 2 years Word Processing
Ron Moore	Geology, Minerals, Energy	BS Geology	BLM - 11 years Geologist
Daniel L. Jacquet	Geology, Minerals, Energy	BS Geology	BLM - 5 years Geologist; U.S. Geological Survey - 1 year Geologist
Ralph "Cub" Wolfe	Range Management	BS Wildlife and Range Management	BLM - 10 years Wildlife Management Biologist, Range Conservationist, Resource Area Manager; USFS - 1 year Range Tech.
Chuck Otto	Forestry, Cultural Resources	BS Forestry	BLM - 5 years Outdoor Recreation Planner/ Forester, 1 year Wild Horse Wrangler
Pardee Bardwell	Wildlife	BS Wildlife/Range Management - Minor in Biology	BLM - 9 years Wildlife Biologist, 1 year Natural Resource Specialist, 1 year Range Conservationist, 1 year Technician
Brian Hatoff	Cultural Resources (consultation & review)	BA Anthropology MA Anthropology	BLM - 11 years Archaeologist, 5 years Lecturer - UNR
Diane Colcord	Cartography	BS Art Education	BLM - 20 years Cartographer

COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

Fifty of the fifty-seven letters received during the public comment period on the Draft Lahontan RMP/EIS addressed the subject of wilderness. All of these letters, as well as recent responses from other Federal agencies that had not responded to the initial request for comments, have been reproduced in the pages that follow. Those comments that presented new data, questioned facts and/or analyses, or raised issues having a direct bearing on the adequacy of the wilderness-related portions of the RMP/EIS either were used in making changes to this EIS or given individual responses in this chapter. Excerpts from the public hearings record which required responses also have been reprinted. All public comments were considered when making the final wilderness suitability recommendations, regardless of whether or not they receive individual responses in this EIS.

Table 5-2 lists the number assigned to each comment letter and the name of each commenter. An asterisk next to the name of the agency, organization, or individual indicates that both written and oral testimony were submitted. Responses were developed for the letters only, unless issues not covered in the letter were raised during oral testimony.

TABLE 5-2
INDEX TO COMMENT LETTERS

Letter Number	Agency, Organization or Individual
1	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
2	USDI, Fish and Wildlife Service
3	USDI, Geological Survey
4	USDI, Bureau of Mines
5	USDI, National Park Service
6	USDI, Bureau of Reclamation
7	Department of the Navy
8	Nevada State Office of Community Services
	Department of Agriculture
	Department of Wildlife
	Department of Transportation
	Department of Conservation & Natural Resources
	*Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology
9	Nevada Division of State Parks
10	*Nevada Department of Minerals
11	Nevada Division of State Lands
12	Churchill County Commissioners
13	Churchill County Planning Commission
14	Governor Richard H. Bryan
15	*Trans-Pacific Geothermal, Inc.
16	*Nevada Outdoor Recreation Association
17	Lahontan Audubon Society, Inc.
18	Ecology Center of Southern California
19	*Sierra Club, Chair Public Lands
20	*Sierra Club, Chair Wilderness
21	*Alta Exploration, Inc.
22	Defenders of Wildlife
23	The Cleveland Museum of Natural History
24	ASARCO
25	M.C. LeFever
26	Elliott Bernshaw
27	Reed Secord
28	Ken Goldsmith
29	Brent Boyer
30	Craig C. Downer
31	Eileen and Darwin Lambert
32	Mining petition
33	Bart Koehler
34	Thomas Murarik
35	Paul Clifford
36	Edward P. Galantowicz, Jr.
37	Courtney Smith
38	Edward Duerr
39	Barbara Kelley
40	Carola P. Hutcherson
41	Gayle Marrs Smith

42	Steven Thaw
43	Marjorie Sill
44	Betty Kersten
45	Guy King
46	Dennis Trease
47	Cheri Cinkoske
48	Denise Smith
49	Gregory Ebner
50	William Kersten
51	Earl Kersten
52	Ann Kersten
53	Laura Kersten King

1/ The petition from the Nevada Miners contained a total of 157 signatures.

TABLE 5-3

INDEX TO HEARINGS TESTIMONY

Hearings Testimony	/	Individual
T-1		Warren Richardson
T-2		Rudy Adams
T-3, 4, 5		Douglas Miller
T-6, 7, 8, 9		Ira Kent
T-10		Lynn Wodell

Comment Letter 1



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
215 Fremont Street
San Francisco, Ca. 94105

January 3, 1984

Thomas J. Owen
District Manager
1050 East William Street, Suite 335
Carson City, Nevada 89701

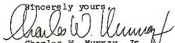
Dear Mr. Owen:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) titled LAHONTAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN. We have no comments on this DEIS.

We have classified this DEIS as category LO-1 (lack of objections - adequate EIS). The classification and date of EPA's comments will be published in the Federal Register in accordance with our public disclosure responsibilities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this DEIS. Please send two copies of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) to this office at the same time it is officially filed with our Washington, D.C. office. If you have any questions, please contact Loretta Kahn Barsamian, Chief, EIS Review Section, at (415) 974-8188 or FTS 454-8188.

Sincerely yours,


Charles W. Murray, Jr.
Assistant Regional Administrator
for Policy, Technical and
Resources Management

Comment Letter 2



United States Department of the Interior

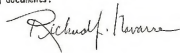
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
GREAT BASIN COMPLEX
4600 Kietzke Lane, Bldg. C
Reno, Nevada 89502

December 15, 1986

Memorandum

To: James W. Elliot, District Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Carson City, Nevada
From: Complex Manager, Reno, Nevada
Subject: Lahontan Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

We are sorry to let you know that because of other commitments, we cannot review and provide comments on the above subject document. We do, however, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this draft RMP and EIS, and look forward to providing input on future Bureau of Land Management planning documents.



Copy to: Assistant Regional Director (AFWE), Portland, Oregon
Dave Harmon, Bureau of Land Management, Reno, Nevada

Comment Letter 3



United States Department of the Interior

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
RESTON, VA. 22092

In Reply Refer To:
WGS-Mail Stop 423

DEC 03 1986

Memorandum

To: District Manager, Carson City District Office,
Bureau of Land Management Carson City, Nevada

From: Chief, Environmental Affairs Program

Subject: Review of final wilderness environmental statements for the
Walker and Lahontan planning units

We are responding to your request of November 17 for comments on these
resource management plans.

We reviewed the drafts of these plans and found that we had no comments.

Sincerely,

Clifford A. Haupt

Clifford A. Haupt
Chief, Environmental Affairs Program

Comment Letter 4



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF MINES
WESTERN FIELD OPERATIONS CENTER
EAST 900 BIRD AVENUE
SPOKANE, WASHINGTON 99202

November 25

Memorandum

To: James W. Elliott, District Manager--Carson City District Office,
Bureau of Land Management, Carson City, Nevada

From: Supervisor--Minerals Involvement Section, Branch of Engineering
Studies

Subject: Review of Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact
Statement for the Lahontan and Walker Resource Areas, Nevada

We have reviewed the Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact
Statement (RMP/EIS) for both the Lahontan and Walker Resource Areas.

We have no comments on either RMP/EIS.

D'Arcy P. Banister

D'Arcy P. Banister

Comment Letter 5



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

WESTERN REGION

455 GOLDEN GATE AVENUE, BOX 19053
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94101

IN REPLY REFER TO:

17619 (WR-RPE)

December 8, 1983

Memorandum

To: District Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Carson City, Nevada
From: Regional Director, Western Region
Subject: Draft Lahontan Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (DES 83/66)

In response to your request, we have reviewed the subject document and have the following comments to offer.

Chapter 2 - Alternatives

Although this chapter does provide an important reference to the treatment of cultural resources on pages 2-15(2), discussions regarding cultural resources, their protection, and potential impacts throughout the rest of the report are weak. For example, the Chapter 5 - List of Preparers does not indicate archeological input despite the fact the Carson City Bureau of Land Management District Office has at least one archeologist. Also, the Alternatives section does not adequately discuss the implications for cultural resources (degree of protection afforded per alternative, potential adverse impacts per alternative, etc.). These implications will vary somewhat depending on which alternative is chosen.

Chapter 4 - Environmental Consequences

On pages 4-5, under Cultural Resources, the statement indicates that "Continuing to manage public lands at the present levels would have little impact on the cultural resources program, because they are protected from any authorized activities that may occur on public lands". How are they protected? This should be explained.

On pages 4-10, under Cultural Resources, how will creating a wilderness also automatically confer protection for cultural resources? Also, the paragraph discussing disposal of 116,500 acres of public lands is confusing and contradictory. If a cultural resource clearance is completed prior to disposal, how and why would sites be lost through disposal? In addition, how and what type of mitigation plan would be developed?

Response Letter 5

5-1 Discussions regarding cultural resources, their protection and potential impacts are necessarily limited in the EIS since cultural resources are not an issue. Potential impacts to cultural resources from selection of any of the alternatives are minor.

Archaeological input to the EIS was provided by Lahontan Resource Area Recreation Planner Chuck Otto who is a RHM Designated Archaeological Technician (DMT). This input was reviewed by Carson City District Archaeologist Brian Hattorf.

5-2 Cultural resources are protected from unauthorized activities by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and Section 101(b)(4) of NEPA of 1969 as outlined in Standard Operating Procedure #2 on page 2-16 of the Draft RME/EIS.

5-3 Wilderness designation will protect cultural resources preserving them in their natural state. Surface disturbing activities would be prohibited. Easy vehicular access, which is commonly associated with vandalism and pothunting, would be denied.

A cultural resource clearance would probably require that any sites located of National Register eligible quality would either be subjected to a data recovery program approved by the SHPO and Advisory Council, or preserved in situ in those instances where other forms of mitigation would not be acceptable. By definition, data recovery in most instances means a site will be partially or completely destroyed.

Comment Letter 5

5-4

On pages 4-41, under Cultural Resources, paragraph 2, appears the statement "Although mitigation may be developed in the short term for any sites found on land for sale, cultural resources are a non-renewable resource." This statement does not make sense. Also, in paragraph 3, the reference should read "Chapter 2, pages 2-16(2)."

We appreciate the opportunity to review this plan and statement.

W. Bruce Ditt

2

Response Letter 5

A mitigation plan would be developed on a case by case basis depending on the needs of each individual site found.

5-4 This was corrected in the Final Lahontan RFP and EIS.

Comment Letter 6



IN REPLY
REFER TO: HP-150

United States Department of the Interior
~~WATER AND POWER RESOURCES SERVICE~~
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
PACIFIC REGIONAL OFFICE
2800 COTTAGE WAY
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95825
DEC 02 1993

To: District Manager, Carson City District, Bureau of Land Management,
Carson City, NV

From: ~~National~~ Regional Director, Sacramento, CA

Subject: Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement
for the Lahontan Resource Management Area, Nevada (DES 83-66)

Our comments regarding this document are as follows:

1. Introduction, Alternatives (page 2-1) - The introductory paragraph states "each (alternative) emphasizes a different balance between resources." It would be more correct to state "each emphasizes a different utilization of resources."

2. Standard Operating Procedures, No. 23 (page 2-17) and Alternative Map, Land-Disposal (page 2-23) - A portion of the public lands designated as suitable for disposal is involved in local controversial issues and requires further analysis in regard to these issues. Some of the lands identified for disposal lie within the Truckee Division of the Newlands Project; some of this benchland receives irrigation water from the Truckee River via the Truckee Canal. These lands are currently involved in a protracted dispute over water rights in the Truckee-Carson Basin and land disposal may further complicate the situation.

Also, the lower Truckee River and its terminus, Pyramid Lake, are essential habitat for two Federally-listed species, the endangered cut-tail (Channistes cut-tail) and the threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout (Salmo clarki lahontan). Because of these species' tenuous existence, specific analysis of potential impacts from land disposal is necessary.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Copy to: Commissioner, Washington, D.C.
Attention: 150

Comment Letter 7



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
WESTERN DIVISION
NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND
P.O. BOX 727
SAN BRUNO, CALIFORNIA 94066

IN REPLY REFER TO:

ZOE:OWS:ea

Ser PS-244

17 JAN 1984

Mr. Thomas J. Owens, District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Carson City District Office
1050 East William Street, Suite 335
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear Mr. Owens:

Reference is made to your request for comments on the Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Lahontan Resource Area, Nevada.

As one of our functions, this office provides planning support services to Naval activities in the nine Western States and includes the review and assessment of proposed local, state and federal agency planning efforts for compatibility with Naval operations and development plans. Accordingly, we have reviewed the referenced EIS and submit the following comments for your consideration in the preparation of the Final EIS.

In general, we find the Draft EIS well prepared but take exception with certain issues as follows:

Land Disposal:

The Draft EIS identifies lands suitable for disposal from federal ownership to other public agencies or private individuals, but incorrectly includes lands which are under application for withdrawal at the Naval Air Station (NAS) Fallon B-20 Target Range. The Draft EIS should be corrected on this issue throughout its text. It is also suggested that Chapter 1, page 2, paragraph 7 should be expanded to clarify that lands identified as suitable for disposal would first be subject to a screening process by other federal agencies for possible transfer prior to disposal.

Microwave Radar Sites:

Chapter 3 of the Draft EIS incorrectly identifies five right-of-way easements as under application. Due to recent events, these easements have been approved and are now part of the existing conditions; Table 3-9 on page 3-20 and the text relevant to these easements and the associated microwave radar sites should be corrected throughout the DEIS. Also, description of the easements and radar sites related to the Desatoya Mountain and Job Peak Wilderness Study Area (WSA) are missing; they should be inserted on pages 3-22 thru 3-24.

7-1

Response Letter 7

7-1 Appropriate corrections have been made in the Final Wilderness EIS.

Comment Letter 7

20E:DMS:es
Ser P3-244

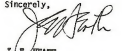
Compatibility With Navy Land-Use Plans and Policies:

7-2 The Draft EIS does not adequately address the compatibility or conflict of the proposed action with Navy land-use plans and policies. In general, we concur with your overall assessment that the effect of existing military training operations associated with NAS Fallon on USA criteria and solitude values would tend to be localized, infrequent and of short duration. Further, since special provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 may permit the continued use of aircraft within lands ultimately designated as wilderness areas, we also conclude that existing overflights and military training operations over lands designated as wilderness areas are compatible. However, this permission is discretionary with the Department of Interior and/or may be subject to restrictions; it therefore causes us concern relative to restrictions that may be imposed which could impact existing and long established military training operations conducted by Naval Air Station, Fallon.

7-3 Any restriction that could negatively affect the mission, goal and operation of any military activity is considered a significant adverse impact and in serious conflict with Navy plans and policies. These issues should be further analyzed in order to provide adequate technical analysis of existing and planned land-use relationships pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements and the manageability criteria of the wilderness study process. Correspondingly, we believe that additional "reasonable" alternatives and/or the appropriate mitigating measures could resolve these issues and should be developed and further addressed in the EIS and the Public Record of Decision. Specifically, we request either the modification of wilderness alternative boundaries or the pre-development of appropriate sections of the wilderness Management Plan for each USA in order to ensure that all alternatives would not adversely impact or conflict with the operations of Naval Air Station, Fallon.

In conclusion, the Navy acknowledges the value of the wilderness program and supports efforts to designate lands considered most appropriate as wilderness areas. However, the Navy must strongly oppose the proposed action, as described, as it may result in potential adverse impact to the mission, goal and operation of NAS Fallon.

Sincerely,


J. E. HEALY
CDR, CDR, USN
Head, Facilities Planning
and Real Estate Department

Response Letter 7

7-2 The EIS adequately addresses impacts which existing and proposed NAS Fallon operations will have on Bureau activities, including recommended wilderness designations.

Although it is conceivable that Department policy could change, the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 and the long history of military training operations conducted in this area, combined with both the Bureau's and the Navy's estimations that existing military operations are compatible with wilderness designations, would tend to dictate against any restrictions being placed on present air operations.

7-3 The Lahontan Wilderness Technical Report addresses the issue of increased air operations on the suitability of lands in the Lahontan Resource Area for designation as wilderness, including impacts upon the manageability of those lands. The Bureau cannot adequately address the impact of wilderness designations upon Navy plans and policies, however, since the full extent of Navy proposals is still unknown.

Pre-development of any portion of a wilderness management plan prior to Congressional consideration of wilderness recommendations would be both inappropriate and premature. The Wilderness Act and the Wilderness Management Policy both provide general guidance with regard to aircraft overflights. A full range of alternatives was addressed in the RMP and the Final Wilderness EIS.

Comment Letter 8^a

RICHARD H. BRYAN
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA



LINDA A. BYRNE
Director

STATE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

Capital Complex
Carson City, Nevada 89710
(702) 885-6420

December 21, 1983

Mr. Tom Owen
District Manager
Carson City BLM District Office
1050 East William Street
Suite 335
Carson City, Nevada 89710

Re: 84300027

Dear Mr. Owen:

The Nevada State Clearinghouse has concluded its review of the Lahontan RMP/EIS. Attached are comments from the Departments of Wildlife, Agriculture, Transportation, Division of Historic Preservation and the Nevada Bureau of Mines. We acknowledge your receipt of comments from the Department of Minerals and the Divisions of Parks and State Lands.

State agencies' comments specific to wilderness issues are being submitted for your consideration only; a State Wilderness consensus position from the Governor on the Lahontan RMP/EIS will be forwarded under separate cover.

I would also like to thank you for letting us review the public hearing transcripts prepared for the BLM; the transcripts are enclosed. If you have any questions or if I may be of further assistance, please call.

Sincerely,

John B. Walker
John B. Walker
Clearinghouse Coordinator

JBW/kf

Comment Letter 8^b

RICHARD H. BRYAN
GOVERNOR



STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE
JOHN H. BAITE, CHAIRMAN
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STEPHEN J. MAHONEY, DIRECTOR
DIVISION OF BEAHE INDUSTRY

STATE OF NEVADA

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

350 CAPITOL HILL AVENUE, RENO, NEVADA 89502
(MAILING ADDRESS—P.O. BOX 11100, RENO, NEVADA 89510-1100)
TELEPHONE (702) 789-0180

MEMORANDUM

Office of Community Services
1100 East William, Suite 109
Carson City, Nevada 89710

November 1, 1983

SAT NV # 84300027 - Lahontan RMP/EIS and Lahontan Wilderness Technical Report
Comments Due: 12/19/83

Livestock: The Preferred Alternative is recommended.

Wild Horses: Reduce numbers to 1971 levels or use Commodity Production Alternative.

Wilderness: Recommend the No Action Alternative.

Glenn Alpine Mountains have substantial human imprints, including 39 miles of ways, 3 pipelines, one reservoir and 13 developed springs. The area also contains high mineral content.

Stillwater Range contains 27.5 miles of roads and 21.5 miles of ways. It is also located next to a bombing range. The mineral potential is moderate to high in the area.

Desoto Mountains contain 12 miles of cherrystem roads and 8 miles of ways. The area will be impacted by low level military flights. Manageability of the area will be very difficult because of the roads and ways.

Job Peak contains 11 miles of ways and 10 cherrystem roads totaling 21.3 miles. The area contains moderate mineral potential and high geothermal potential. The Supersonic Operating Area would severely impact the area.

The above listed factors for all of the WSA's make the areas unsatisfactory for WSA designations.

Lands: We recommend the Preferred Alternative that would dispose of 116,500 acres.

Range Development: Since this money is generated through grazing fees and should be used to improve the resources, we recommend spending \$517,975.00 as in the Commodity Production Alternative.

Richard L. Rowe
Richard L. Rowe
Regional Coordinator

Thomas W. Ballow
Thomas W. Ballow
Executive Director

RLR:sMc

Comment Letter 8^c



STATE OF NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

1100 Valley Road
P.O. Box 10678

Reno, Nevada 89520-0022
(702) 788-0500

WILLIAM A. MOLINI
Director

RICHARD H. BRYAN
Governor

December 20, 1983

Ms. Linda Ryan, Director
Office of Community Services
1100 East William, Suite 109
Carson City, NV 89701

Dear Linda:

We appreciate the opportunity to review and provide comment on the Lahontan RMP/EIS and associated Wilderness Technical report which were submitted by the Carson City District office of the Bureau of Land Management (SAI NV#84300027). As with several of the most recent RMP's completed by the BLM in Nevada, we find that the document lacks appropriate management actions to accomplish the primary objective of improving the condition and productivity of public rangelands. As a result of our review we would suggest the following management actions:

1. The protection and/or restoration of 53 miles of riparian habitat to a fair or good condition should be a management objective.
2. Wild horse herds should be managed at reasonable levels or closer to the 1971 estimates since many herds are now at peak population levels.
3. The habitat should be managed in such a fashion that reasonable numbers of big game wildlife species can be achieved.
4. Deferred grazing systems should be implemented as a means of improving the forage resource; protection during the spring months is particularly important in many areas.
5. Action plans need to be developed on all "T" allotments using a consultation and coordination process.

Our agency has previously provided input on the wilderness issues through a combined meeting of state agency representatives and we therefore have no further comment at this time.

0-90

Comment Letter 8^d

Ms. Linda Ryan
December 20, 1983
Page 2

If you have any questions on the above or feel a need for further input at this time, please advise.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM A. MOLINI, DIRECTOR

Patrick D. Caffin
Patrick D. Caffin
Acting Director

EPW:cb
cc: Region I

Comment Letter 8e

STATE CLEANINGHOUSE FEDERAL IMPACT REVIEW PROGRAM

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
8100 EAST WILLIAM, SUITE 109
CARSON CITY, NEVADA 89710
(702) 885-4428

TO:

<input type="checkbox"/> Governor's Office	<input type="checkbox"/> Labor Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation and Natural Resources
<input type="checkbox"/> Attorney General	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislative Counsel Bureau	<input type="checkbox"/> Library
<input type="checkbox"/> Administration	<input type="checkbox"/> Prisons	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Lands
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Service Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Districts
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Taxation	<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Protection
<input type="checkbox"/> Community Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Department of Health	<input type="checkbox"/> Forestry
<input type="checkbox"/> State Job Training Office	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bureau of Mines	<input type="checkbox"/> Historic Preservation
<input type="checkbox"/> Economic Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bureau of Range, Wildlife, and Forestry	<input type="checkbox"/> Archaeology
<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wildlife	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Parks
<input type="checkbox"/> Employment Security Department	<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Water Planning
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dept. of Minerals	<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Water Resources
<input type="checkbox"/> Equal Rights Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Human Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Indian Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> _____	

FROM: Linda A. Ryan, Director

SAI # 8430027

PROJECT: LABONTAN SMP/EIS

Attached for review and comment is a copy of the informational project. Please evaluate it with respect to:

- 1) the program's effect on your plans and programs;
- 2) the importance of its contribution to State and/or areawide goals and objectives;
- 3) its accord with any applicable law, order or regulation with which you are familiar and/or
- 4) additional considerations.

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR COMMENTS NO LATER THAN January 14, 1980. Write out your comments if applicable, check the appropriate box below and return the form to this office. PLEASE DO SO EVEN IF YOU HAVE NO COMMENT on this particular project so that we may complete our processing. If you are unable to comment by the prescribed date, please notify this office immediately.

THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY REVIEWING AGENCIES

<input type="checkbox"/> No comment on this project	<input type="checkbox"/> Conference desired (see below)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Proposal supported as written	<input type="checkbox"/> Conditional support (outlined below)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Additional information (see below)	<input type="checkbox"/> Disapproval/denial of funding
	(must specify reason below)

Comments (use additional sheets if necessary)

Impacts on current policy or future goals of the Nevada Department of Transportation by stated alternatives within the "Labontan Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement" are minimal at best. A slight increase in traffic volumes might possibly be realized due to improvements in recreational targets. Construction of grazing allotment fence could effect auto/cattle accidents. Where such fences would intersect or run adjacent to a State Interest Highway, an inventory or location description would assist this agency in monitoring for possible hazards. Such an inventory if an applicable alternative is selected, should be forwarded to Mr. Frank C. Hage, Chief Safety Engineer, Nevada Department of Transportation, 1263 South Stewart Street, Carson City, Nevada 89712.

[Signature]
Reviewer's Signature

Transportation Analyst w/ (NDOT) 885-3461 12/15/83
Title Phone Date

Comment Letter 8f

RICHARD H. SAYAN
Director

STATE OF NEVADA

ROLAND O. WESTERBORG
State Historic Preservation Officer



DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND ARCHEOLOGY

201 S. Full Street
Capital Complex
Carson City, Nevada 89710
(702) 885-5138

December 12, 1983

MEMORANDUM

TO: John Walker, Office of Community Services

FROM: Alice M. Becker, Staff Archeologist *[Signature]*

SUBJECT: LABONTAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, SAI #8430027

The Division participated with other state agencies in commenting on the BLM's proposed wilderness designations for the Labontan Resource Area. Our comments in general are included with those to be submitted by the state of Nevada. We especially support the designation of the Desatoya WSA; many archeological sites, including Topis Cave, are located in the area and stand to benefit from the added protection.

The Resource Management Plan/EIS is inadequate in regards to cultural resources. Reference must be to the Rangland PMOA between the BLM and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation dated January 14, 1980. The report must also refer to the completed Class I and II inventories identifying historic and cultural properties in the resource area.

Within the Standard Operating Procedures, it should be made explicit that when it is not feasible to avoid adverse effects on properties of National Register quality, the BLM will consult with the SHPO to develop mutually acceptable measures to mitigate the impact of the proposed action. This information must be included in the final RMP/EIS.

If there are any questions regarding these comments, BLM staff should contact us.

AMS/lew

Comment Letter 89

NEVADA BUREAU OF MINES AND GEOLOGY

MACKAY SCHOOL OF MINES
UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA-RENO
RENO, NEVADA 89567-0088

(702) 784-8691

8 November 1983

Comments on Mineral Potential
Wilderness Study Areas
Labonton Resource Area

CLAN ALPINE MOUNTAINS (NV-030-102):

There are two historic mining districts on the borders and extending into the area of this proposed WSA. The Alpine, or Clan Alpine district is located at the southern tip of the mountain area and extends along the eastern range front from Florence-Star-Clan Alpine canyons to Tungsten Mountain. The historic mining district, that part to the south near Florence Canyon, was organized in 1864. There is no recorded production, but a ten-stamp mill was built to service numerous prospects. Schrader, 1947, describes a mineralized area 4 miles wide by 13 miles long extending from Alpine to Granite Point (Tungsten Mountain) with a main mineralized zone 4 miles long by 3 miles wide at Alpine. A large portion of this documented mineralized zone is within the boundaries of the proposed WSA. The host rock at Alpine is rhyolite and latite; it is described as silicified with quartz-adularia alteration. The structures in the area trend both northwest and northeast, and describe a sheeted zone. The silver-gold mineralization here could have potential as a low-grade, large tonnage prospect. To the northeast, at Tungsten Mountain on the northeast margin of the WSA, tungsten has been mined from a contact deposit.

The district is credited with over 4400 units of WO₃ production, some of which has come from the Gila Peak mine, on the west side of Mt. Grant (Gila Peak) in the heart of the WSA (Stager, in press).

The Bernice district, located on the northwest margin and extending into the WSA from the northwest, was discovered in the 1870's, and has produced over \$135,000 in silver, gold, and antimony. The actual production may exceed the recorded. Schrader (1947) credits the district with over one-half million in gold and silver alone in the 1886-1890 period.

Perhaps the most favorable portion of the WSA for minerals lies within the area between Bernice and Tungsten Mountain. There is a strong NW structural trend which cuts the range in this area, with pre-Tertiary sediments and intrusive rocks cropping out along the trend. The presence of rocks favorable for mineralization in the pre-Tertiary section, the presence of strong structures, and the presence of gold, silver, antimony, arsenic, and mercury mineralization in and surrounding the area make this portion of the Clan Alpine range very favorable for mineral exploration. There could be deposits of precious metals, antimony and tungsten within the area defined by the WSA boundaries.

DESATOTA (NV-030-110):

A large portion of this area is underlain by what is probably a great thickness of unmineralized volcanic rocks, possibly filled calderas. There are, however, two areas of documented mineralization on the margins of the proposed WSA that should be recognized. Gold-silver prospects to east of Cold Springs Station on the west central border of the WSA have recently been the site of exploration by major mining companies. There could be potential for extensions into the WSA.

Comment Letter 8h

2.

8 November 1983

Comments on Mineral Potential Wilderness Study Areas Lahonton Resource Area

DESATOYA (NV-030-110) continued:

8-1

On the south border of the WSA, at Carroll Summit, the old district of Gold Basin lies north of the Highway, partly within the WSA. About \$20,000 in gold and silver was produced after 1911 from this district, from quartz veins along faults in a rhyolite tuff. The lack of mining claims in this area may be partially explained by the fact that the entire mining area has until recently been withdrawn as a vegetative study plot.

STILLWATER RANGE (NV-030-104):

The high minerals favorability of the entire Stillwater range is underscored by the GEM reports of the area. Essentially the entire flank of the range rates "high" while the east-central portion rates "moderate". Gold exploration in Fondaway Canyon by Tundra Resources, a Canadian firm, is reported to have delineated a zone of gold mineralization extending several thousand feet along an east-west trend. This trend would project into the WSA from the west. Favorable host rocks occur within the WSA, adding to its ranking of high to moderate for mineral potential.

REFERENCES:

- Schrader, F. C. (1947) Geology of the Carson Sink Area, Nevada:
U.S.G.S. open-file report.
- Stager, H. K. (1977) Geology and Mineral Deposits of Lander County, Nevada,
Part II, Mineral Deposits, NBMG Bulletin 88.
- Stager, H. K. (in preparation) Tungsten Deposits of Nevada: NBMG Bulletin.

Response Letter 8

8-1 In December 1968, approximately 2,488,400 acres in Lander County were classified for multiple use management pursuant to the Classification and Multiple Use Act of September 18, 1964. Although all of this land was segregated from appropriation under the agricultural land laws only seven areas containing 960 acres were further segregated from appropriation under the mining laws.

The only land in the vicinity of the Desatoya Mountains WSA which was segregated against mining was an 80 acre parcel in N4SE4, Sec. 8, T. 16 N., R. 38 E., known as the Carroll Summit Vegetative Study Plot. This segregation was designed to protect a one acre study area in which the University of Nevada-Reno wished to study the restoration of black sage and galleta grass. Approximately 10 acres of this segregated area actually lay in the WSA.

In December 1982, segregation against agricultural entry on all 2,488,400 acres was vacated. In February 1983, segregation against mineral entry on the 80 acres in question was vacated and the lands were open for mineral entry on March 17, 1983. It should be noted that the case file indicates the mineral segregation of this 80 acre parcel was never shown on the Master Title Plat. Consequently it was not generally known that the segregation was in effect and a few mining claims were located within the area, although outside the WSA. The case file further noted that, "Opening the lands to mineral entry will only remove a legal restriction which has never been recognized in the field."

Because of the small acreage which had been segregated against mineral entry and the fact that this segregation was never recognized in the field, it is unlikely that mineral exploration of the Carroll Summit area was in any way adversely affected during the period of segregation.

Comment Letter 9



DIVISION OF STATE PARKS

MEMO

TO John Richardson

FROM Wayne Perock

SUBJECT Lahontan Wilderness Technical Report

801.6b(4)

DATE 12/06/83

The proposed action does not adversely impact State Parks or it's program.

The document is a supplement to the Lahontan Resource Management Plan. It provides a more detailed evaluation of the wilderness criteria summarized in the R.M.P.

Four Wilderness Study Areas are addressed:

Clan Alpine Mountains	- 196,128 acres
Stillwater Range	- 94,607 acres
Desatoya Mountains	- 51,262 acres
Job Peak	- 91,209 acres
Total	433,206 acres

Designation of all or a portion of the W.A.S.'s would enhance primitive recreation opportunities while reducing potential for O.R.V. related activities.

Primitive recreation opportunities listed include: hiking/backpacking, sightseeing, nature study, bird watching, photography, camping, picnicking, rock hounding, vegetation collecting, hunting, trapping, rock climbing and horseback riding.

Designation would be consistent with S.C.O.R.P. in that it would "preserve a representative cross section of Nevada's roadless, undeveloped areas in wilderness". It also is consistent in promoting dispersed recreation.

While all four areas have wilderness characters in varying degrees, I recommend we support wilderness designation in the following priority.

- Desatoya Mountains shows excellent wilderness qualities and extensive recreation opportunities. Conflicts with other interest are minimal—strongly recommend designation.
- Clan Alpine - While wilderness quality and recreation opportunities are good, a high number of conflicts with mining claims, roads etc. exist. Recreation interest may be best served through existing multiple use.

Comment Letter 9

Lahontan Wilderness Technical Report
12/06/83
page 2 of 2

- Stillwater Range offers limited recreational opportunities and conflicts with other interest are high.

- Job Peak has limited opportunities and many conflicts exist.

Designation of any or part of the W.A.S.'s would benefit tourism because this would bring broader public awareness of the areas.

We should support the proposal especially the designation of the Desatoya Mountains.

HRP/se

Comment Letter 10

RICHARD H. BRYAN
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA



DEPARTMENT OF MINERALS

400 W. King Street, Suite 100
Carson City, Nevada 89718
(702) 325-5850

December 7, 1983

Mr. Thomas J. Owen, District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
1050 East Williams St., Suite 335
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear Mr. Owen:

The Nevada Department of Minerals appreciates the opportunity to review and comment on the Draft Lahontan Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (SAI NV984300027). Our agency is particularly interested in issues associated with minerals and energy development, since related decisions could have long lasting effects on the mineral industry in the State.

The Nevada Department of Minerals has several concerns relating to the Lahontan Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. Of primary concern is the proposal to close several sections of land in which there currently is or has been mining or exploration activity. Many of these areas also have favorable potential for geothermal development and include sections of lands currently under oil and gas leases. The department is also concerned about the designated mineral potential as stated in the draft document. We feel that the rating system to evaluate mineral potential is inaccurate and biased since a high rating only recognizes past mineral activities. We believe that an area's true mineral potential can never be fully known until actual mining and exploration occurs. In many cases, major mineral deposits are overlooked or ignored until new technological breakthroughs or shifts in industrial needs suddenly transform an area which seems to have little or no mineral potential into a prime exploration target.

The Department recommends that wilderness study areas should only be considered if an area has no mineral resource potential; that is, areas with sufficient geologic data to indicate the lack of favorable host rocks or mineral resources given today's mining technology and, of course, present and predicted economic conditions.

Response Letter 10

10-1 A high rating under the GEM Classification Scheme may be based on the geologic environment and inferred geologic processes, as well as reported mineral occurrences and known mines and deposits.

The certainty or uncertainty of these ratings is quantified in the GEM confidence scheme. The GEM mineral potential ratings reflect current knowledge of an area, but also anticipate future technology and discoveries. Follow-up work by U.S.G.S. and the Bureau of Mines will refine and enhance the findings. Final recommendations as to the suitability of lands for wilderness preservation will include the USGS/BM study for each area.

Comment Letter 10

Page Two
December 7, 1983
Lahontan Wilderness Comments

Furthermore, the department feels that if any area with favorable mineral potential is to be recommended for wilderness, it should only be because: 1) There are no alternate sites with no mineral potential, or 2) An intensive U. S. Geologic Survey or U. S. Bureau of Mines study has been conducted at a sufficient level of detail to reclassify the area as having no resources potential.

Generally, the department found the draft document to be well written and easy to understand. Your staff should be complimented on their efforts concerning both data collection and compilation.

For clarification purposes, please find listed below our specific comments on each of the four Wilderness Study Areas identified in the Lahontan Resource Area.

Clan Alpine Mountains—The Nevada Department of Minerals strongly recommends that the entire area not be considered for wilderness due primarily to the mineral potential and consequent resource conflicts which exist in the area. The Clan Alpine is currently and has in the past been of extreme interest to the mineral industry. The tremendous number of mining claims in the area along with historic mining activities and recorded production attest to the fact that the Clan Alpine Mountains should remain available for exploration and mineral production. The large block of claims in the northern section of the WSA are in an area of proven gold, mercury, and antimony deposits. The large block of mining claims on the eastern edge of the WSA is in an area of proven tungsten deposits. The mining claim block in the southern sections are in an area of proven gold deposits. The department feels that the gold deposits in the southern portion of the WSA could possibly extend far into the sections identified in the preferred alternatives. The Department feels that all alternatives, except no wilderness, would have a significant adverse impact on mineral and energy development in the area.

Stillwater Range—The Nevada Department of Minerals supports the preferred alternative for this Wilderness Study Area.

Desatoya—The moderate geothermal and mineral potential on both the northern and southern sections of the WSA along with present and historic gold mining activities in the Carroll Summit Area present resource conflicts that the Department feels outweigh the wilderness value in the area. Therefore, the Nevada Department of Minerals recommends that the entire area not be considered for wilderness, since all alternatives, except no wilderness, would have a significant adverse impact on mineral and energy development in the area.

Job Peak—The Nevada Department of Minerals supports the preferred alternative for this Wilderness Study Area.

Comment Letter 10

Page Three
December 7, 1983
Lahontan Wilderness Comments

As a closing statement, the Department of Minerals does value preserving some public lands for future generations and scientific study, as long as the mineral industry, which is so essential to our national defense and the State's progressive economy, can remain healthy and be provided the opportunity to pursue new mineral resources.

Sincerely,


Paul Iverson
Deputy Director

PI/kc

cc: Edward F. Spang, State Director
Linda Ryan, Office of Community Services, State Clearinghouse Program

Comment Letter 11

Division of State Lands
 State Land Use Planning Agency
 720 East 3rd



Address Reply to:
 Division of State Lands
 201 N. Fall Street
 Carson City, Nevada 89701

STATE OF NEVADA

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Division of State Lands

December 20, 1983

Thomas J. Owen, District Manager
 BLM Carson City District
 1950 East William Street, Suite 335
 Carson City, Nevada 89701

SUBJECT: Comments on Draft Lahontan Resource Management Plan and
 Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Mr. Owen:

We have reviewed the Draft Lahontan Resource Management Plan and
 Environmental Impact Statement and attended all the public hearings held in regard
 to the Plan and EIS. We offer the following comments:

1. The three year average licensed use of 64,239 AUM's for livestock grazing levels
 is the preferred alternative is lower than the 81,840 AUM active grazing
 preference for the area. Use of the three year average licensed use is, in most
 cases, an appropriate starting point on which to monitor to determine trend and
 condition. For most operators this should not create any significant problems.
 We are, however, concerned about those livestock operators whose three year
 average use is lower than a reasonable stocking rate for their allotment. These
 reduced numbers may have occurred for a variety of reasons, some not related
 to forage conditions. We would recommend that the three year licensed use be
 used as a general guide in establishing stocking rates on which monitoring will
 be based. For those livestock operators who have been running less livestock
 in the past three years for reasons unrelated to forage availability, we suggest
 that the BLM work with this limited number of operators to establish a stocking
 level which would be more equitable. This would avoid unfairly penalizing a
 few operators who happened to have had herd levels less than they reasonably
 could have had during the past three years. We recognize that a proper
 monitoring program should allow for upward adjustments for these operators;
 however, these adjustments under the process proposed, will not be implemented
 until after monitoring is well underway. This will still unfairly penalize some
 of the operators who have reduced herd levels.

The actual implementation of fair stocking rates to be used for monitoring
 could be established through a coordinated resource management planning process,
 if all participants are agreeable to using the process.

Selection of the Commodity Production Alternative for livestock grazing
 would avoid this problem.

Comment Letter 11

Thomas J. Owen, District Manager
December 28, 1983
Page 2

2. We question how the environmental consequence for wild horses under the preferred and midrange alternatives could be stated as "... no change to wild horse population levels." This statement does not analyze positive or negative impacts. Since there are so many who feel that wild horse numbers are too high and that range resources are being damaged, a "middle-of-the-road" alternative would probably more accurately call for protection of herds at "viable" sizes and reduction to those sizes or the 1971 levels. The environmental consequence of maintaining high wild horse populations should at least be stated correctly under both the midrange and preferred alternatives.
3. For wilderness study areas included in the resource area, we offer the following evaluations and recommendations:
- A. Stillwater Range (NV-030-104): We agree that the area should not be considered further as a potential wilderness area. High mineral values and limited wilderness characteristics should have disqualified this area before now.
 - B. Glen Alpine (NV-030-021): The majority of the area has high resource values, evidence of mining activity, roads and ways. Military overflights adversely affect wilderness considerations. These values and the impacts of man seem to outweigh the limited areas which may contain wilderness values. We recommend the area be dropped from further wilderness consideration.
 - C. Desotoya (NV-030-110): This area has wilderness values which are not already adversely impacted by the imprints of man. Also, resource conflicts appear to be minimal. This area should continue to be considered as a potential wilderness area. A small area near Carroll Summit (portions of Sections 7 and 8, Township 18 North, Range 18 East), where historic mining activities have occurred, should be excluded from the wilderness proposal. This will eliminate the most significant resource conflict noted for the area.
 - D. Job Peak (NV-030-127): This is an area having high mineral and geothermal potential. The limited wilderness characteristics of the area are substantially diminished by the resource values present and the many military overflights occurring in the vicinity. We agree that the area should not be further considered for wilderness designation.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the planning for the Lahontan Resource Area. We hope our comments are useful to you.

Sincerely,

P. B. Wilcox

Pamela B. Wilcox
Administrator

PSW:JMD/jp

Response Letter 11

- 11-1 All of the areas of historic mining activity in the vicinity of Carroll Summit which have experienced actual physical impacts have been eliminated from the Proposed Action for the Desotoya Mountains WSA. The mineral values of this area will be carefully assessed by the U.S. Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines before the Secretary of Interior makes his final recommendation to the President as to the area's suitability for preservation as wilderness.

Comment Letter 12



Office of the
Churchill County Commissioners
Fallon, Nevada 89406

December 21, 1983

United States
Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Attn: Edward F. Spang, State Director
300 Booth Street
Reno, Nevada 89509

SUBJECT: Comments regarding Draft Lahontan Resource Management Plan,
Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Wilderness Studies.

Dear Mr. Spang:

It appears that the Bureau of Land Management has come a long way toward recognizing the need for multiple use of public lands since 1980. At that time some 450,000 acres of public land within the Lahontan Resource area faced severe restrictions to access as a result of a decision by the BLM designating these lands for further study to determine their wilderness characteristics.

Since that time a more rational approach seems to have prevailed as evidenced by the relatively moderate, Preferred Alternatives discussed in Chapter 2 of the Draft Lahontan Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.

After reviewing the alternatives outlined in Chapter 2 of the Draft EIS we find that the preferred alternatives as presented beginning on page 2-11 are realistic for the most part. The removal of the Stillwater Range and the Job Peak area from further wilderness consideration is heartily endorsed both from an economic point of view due to mining and grazing as well as the recognition of a lack of unique and qualifying features necessary for wilderness designation.

Comment Letter 12

We are disturbed by the recommendation to maintain the wild horse populations at their current levels. The obvious competition for rangeland by wild horses, cattle and wildlife clearly mandates action in favor of cattle production and wildlife other than horses. When one considers the destruction of springs and naturally occurring watering places by wild horses and their far ranging nature, we wonder about the advisability of the development of watering facilities without reducing the horse population. The placement of watering facilities will notably not reduce the destruction of naturally occurring watering places and the resultant loss in wildlife habitat without a concomitant reduction in wild horse populations. Just as any wild game is harvested to control population so should the wild horse be controlled.

We note that the development of water facilities includes the drilling of three wells which we assume will be done upon securing the necessary water rights and drilling permits issued by the State of Nevada Department of Water Resources.

The specific areas selected for wilderness designation in the Clan Alpine and Denatoya Mountains may have certain merit but, we caution the BLM with respect to management problems inherent with wilderness.

One of the largest potential problems we foresee is the impairment of efficient rescue operations in designated wilderness areas resulting from the ban on vehicles. While it is possible to call in a rescue helicopter from the Fallon Naval Air Station this is not always practical except in medical emergencies. Occasionally, the Sheriff's Search and Rescue unit must enter an area in order to locate a lost child or other persons. The nature of this type of rescue requires that a team, or teams, be able to access an area as rapidly as possible. This may require vehicles to transport the rescue team

Response Letter 12

12-1 Section 4(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964 provides that the prohibition of temporary roads, motor vehicles, and aircraft in a wilderness area may be temporarily suspended when an emergency arises involving the health and safety of persons in the area. The Bureau's Wilderness Management Policy expands this to include motor vehicles and equipment required for a fire suppression emergency. Also allowed are overflights by Civil Air Patrol search and rescue aircraft and the use of helicopters for evacuations. A management plan will be developed for each area designated as wilderness. These plans will include emergency procedures specifically tailored to each area. Local government officials, including the County Sheriff, as well as the Fallon Naval Air Station, will be consulted during the development of these plans.

Comment Letter 12

to the last known location of the missing person in order to prevent loss of life due to exposure and other threats. We fear that this will be one of the major drawbacks in any wilderness area, not just those in Churchill County. The cost to mount a rescue operation both in terms of time and equipment will climb dramatically due to the designation of wilderness areas with local units of government required to bear the bulk of such costs.

We still wonder if the Clan Alpine and Desatoya Mountains qualify as wilderness due primarily to the expected increase in supersonic activities proposed by the Navy. The Supersonic Operations Area as laid out by the Navy encompasses approximately 5000 square miles of north-central Nevada. A conservative Navy estimate indicates that at least 100 sonic booms will be created per day. This would certainly compromise the possibility of enjoying a "wilderness experience" due to the lack of "solitude", one of the prime criteria of any wilderness area. This was one of our primary arguments in previous testimony and continues to be a valid concern. The cost associated with the development and management of wilderness areas proposed in the preferred alternative could end up being wasted if military aircraft operations continue to expand as proposed.

The Churchill County Commissioners recently became aware of HR2379, a bill being considered by Congress which could impose federal land-use controls on commerce and industry outside the borders of federal conservation lands. The bill, if implemented, would impose a "buffer-zone" which would control activities adjacent to national parks, refuges and wilderness sites. The effect of such legislation could be far reaching and might impact mineral and energy exploration and production. We know that the Dixie Valley area in

Response Letter 12

12-2 The impacts of supersonic air operations upon solitude in the four NSAs was dealt with on pp. 2-5 of the Lahontan Wilderness Technical Report. It is recognized that increased supersonic overflights would have a significant impact on solitude opportunities. The Wilderness Act requires that an area have outstanding opportunities for either solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation. At this time, the wilderness characteristics of the areas proposed for designation are of such high quality that our analysis indicates that the wilderness values outweigh the impacts of the overflights.

12-3 The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 requires that the Bureau complete its wilderness review process and submit its recommendations to Congress. Both the designation of certain lands as wilderness and the possible institution of "buffer zones" around these lands require Congressional action. It is beyond the scope of this document to analyze the impacts of potential future legislation about "buffer zones".

Comment Letter 12

Churchill County is rich in geothermal potential and we cannot help but wonder if designation of a portion of the Clan Alpine Mountains as wilderness could ultimately halt or severely curtail continued development of such resources.

In addition, the old Wonder mining district, located just south of the proposed Clan Alpine wilderness area has recently been purchased by a large firm and the extraction of minerals by the open pit method is expected to commence shortly. We are concerned that HR2379 may adversely impact this very important economic boon to Churchill County.



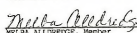
Finally, the proposal to dispose of public lands identified as suitable for transfer to private ownership is supported by the residents in Churchill County. We note that the BLM intends to reserve rights-of-way to preserve access to public lands as outlined in the Standard Operating Procedures section in Chapter 2 of the Draft Document. We would request that a minimum 60 foot easement be reserved and that such easement extend to the nearest public road. This would ensure access to public lands but, also would allow adequate right-of-way consistent with Churchill County Ordinance to enable development of roads serving private lands. We also wish to remind you that Churchill County does have a zoning ordinance in effect. Because of this we request that the Bureau of Land Management consult with the County prior to determining minimum parcel size suitable for disposal in any particular area. Most outlying lands in Churchill County require a minimum 20 acre parcel size, to be consistent with the zoning code.

Comment Letter 12

We trust that our comments will be considered in the final draft of the Lahontan Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

CHURCHILL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


DEAN SERFATY, Chairman

BILL LEE, Member

MELISSA ALLREDGE, Member

cc: Tom Owen, District Director

Comment Letter 13

RESOLUTION NO. 24-83

A RESOLUTION BY THE CHURCHILL COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION IN SUPPORT OF CHURCHILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS POSITION WITH RESPECT TO DRAFT LAHONTAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER THE CONTINUED DESIGNATING OF A PORTION OF THOSE AREAS ORIGINALLY IDENTIFIED AS WILDERNESS AREA AND OTHER MATTERS PROPERLY RELATING THERETO.

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Land Management commenced an inventory of lands in Churchill County in 1980 suitable for wilderness designation, and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Land Management at that time designated approximately 450,000 acres of public land within the Lahontan Resource area as having wilderness potential, and

WHEREAS, Churchill County, private persons and organizations protested the designation for various reasons including the lack of economic feasibility, the destruction of a portion of our community's economic base resulting from the closure to most mining and grazing interests and the usurpation of the multiple use concept of public lands, and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Land Management has recently released the Lahontan Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement, and

WHEREAS, the Draft Document, "Preferred Alternate" recommends a more moderate course of action than originally proposed. Now Therefore Be It Resolved by the Churchill County Planning Commission to support the position of the Churchill County Commissioners regarding their comments on the Draft Lahontan Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement, and

Be It Further Resolved that the Planning Commission expresses its concern for the continued designation of a portion of those lands originally identified as having wilderness potential due to the lack of cost effective means for the Bureau of Land Management to manage these resources.

Comment Letter 13

This resolution shall be effective on the 14th day of

December, A.D., 19 83.

PROPOSED AND ADOPTED THIS 14th day December

of A.D., 1983.

THOSE VOTING AYE: William Matson

Ernie Heying

Liz Martin

Aldo Benedetti

Buzz Fitzpatrick

Dan Urguhart

Willis Swan

THOSE VOTING NAY: None

CHURCHILL COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

By: William R. Matson
William R. Matson, Chairman

ATTEST:

Debra M. Skene
Clerk of the Board

Comment Letter 14



THE STATE OF NEVADA
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
Carson City, Nevada 89710
February 6, 1984

RICHARD H. BRYAN
Governor

TELEPHONE
(702) 685-3111

Tom Owen, District Manager
Carson City BLM District Office
1050 East William Street, Suite 335
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear Mr. Owen:

We have reviewed the draft Lahontan Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to comment. The Resource Management Plan deals with a variety of issues and uses relating to the BLM lands within the resource area; however, at this time, this comment is specifically on the wilderness study areas considered in the document.

You may have already received comments from various state agencies representing their specific concerns with each area. I hope you find these informative and useful. Because the various state agencies are given different mandates and have different concerns, their evaluations and comments may understandably vary.

I have asked the various State agencies to work with my office to develop a consensus position for the wilderness study areas in the Lahontan Resource Area. These agencies were the State Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources, Minerals and Wildlife. The State's position is based upon information provided by the BLM, the State's knowledge of the resources and attributes of each area, the concerns expressed by local government officials and concerns presented by the general public.

Job Peak (NV-030-127): This area has substantial mineral and geothermal potential which could be adversely impacted by wilderness designation. It may also be increasingly subjected to military overflights. On balance it lacks wilderness values that are high enough to compensate for the resource conflicts. We concur with your preferred alternative and find that this area should not be considered further for wilderness designation.

Comment Letter 14

Stillwater Range (NV-030-104): This is an area which contains extensive moderate-to-high mineral and geothermal development potential. Active mineral exploration and mining claims in and around the wilderness study area substantiate this rating. The limited wilderness values present are outweighed by the mineral and geothermal values found within the area. The no action alternative, which is also preferred by the BLM, is appropriate for this area.

14-1 Desatoya (NV-030-110): This area has the highest wilderness values of the four Wilderness Study Areas in this planning area. While local governments do not support any of these four areas as wilderness, they do concur that the Desatoyas would be the most suitable of the four. We do feel that the boundary should be adjusted to exclude the historic mining activities near Carroll Summit (portions of Section 7 and 8, Township 16 North, Range 38 East). With this adjustment, the State supports the preferred alternative for designation.

14-2 Clan Alpine (NV-030-012): This area has high resource values which alone outweigh the limited wilderness values that may be present. Roads, ways, mining activities, and other impacts of man such as numerous military overflights further diminish the wilderness qualities present. The State recommends that the area not be considered for wilderness designation.

The State appreciates the opportunity to comment on your study. We urge you to consider carefully the concerns of the State and the local units of government in your continued review. Please do not hesitate to contact this office or any of our State agencies if you need additional information.

Sincerely,


RICHARD L. BUNKER
Governor

RHB/cjr

Response Letter 14

14-1 All of the areas of historic mining activity in the vicinity of Carroll Summit which have experienced actual physical impacts have been eliminated from the Proposed Action for the Desatoya Mountains WSA. The mineral values of this area will be carefully assessed by the U.S. Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines before the Secretary of Interior makes his final recommendation to the President as to the area's suitability for preservation as wilderness.

14-2 Both wilderness and mineral resource values are high in the Clan Alpine Mountains WSA. The Proposed Action eliminates the great majority of range, woodland, ORV, and mineral resource conflicts, while recommending as suitable for preservation as wilderness only that portion of the WSA with the highest wilderness values. The area is quite large, extremely natural, contains both good topographic and vegetative screening and is highly scenic. It is well watered and contains a good diversity of plant and animal species. Primitive recreational opportunities are numerous and outstanding. Mineral values in the acreage recommended suitable will be assessed by the U.S. Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines before a final recommendation is sent from the Secretary of Interior to the President.

It is recognized that military overflights impact solitude opportunities in the Lahontan Resource Area WSAs (Lahontan Wilderness Technical Report, pp. 2-5). Proposed increases in the number and type of overflights would result in additional impacts to wilderness values, although the extent of such impacts is currently unknown. At this time the wilderness characteristics are of such high quality that our analysis indicates that the wilderness values outweigh the impact of overflights.

Comment Letter 15

TRANS-PACIFIC GEOTHERMAL, INC.
1419 Broadway, Suite #415, Oakland, CA 94612
(415) 763-7812

Nov 14 12 21 PM '83

November 11, 1983

Bureau of Land Management
ATTN: Terry Knight
1050 E. Williams, Suite 335
Carson City, NV 89701

Dear Terry:

Sorry to have missed you at the Lahontan Public Wilderness Meeting November 9th in Reno. I had made it a point to introduce myself but fell through on the follow through!

Enclosed please find a written copy of TGS Associates' statement regarding the Stillwater Study Area to be considered in your final review and recommendations.

I left my card with a gentleman from your office so that I might receive a copy of the Lahontan RMP; please forward at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Paula Stryker
Paula Stryker
Associate Landman

PS/1kp

Enclosure

Comment Letter 15

TRANS-PACIFIC GEOTHERMAL, INC.
1419 Broadway, Suite #415, Oakland, CA 94612
(415) 763-7812

November 9, 1983

TGS ASSOCIATES' STATEMENT REGARDING
WILDERNESS STUDY AREA (NV-030-104)

TGS Associates has geothermal leases in 13 sections of land which are within or adjacent to the eastern boundary of the Stillwater Range Wilderness Study Area (NV-030-104). This prospect, which lies in T23N, R35E, M0M, formerly leased by Southland Royalty Company, and jointly developed by Thermal Power Company, is now owned by TGS Associates. The designation of the Dixie Valley Road (Route 390), proposed by the September 1983 Technical Report as the eastern border of this Wilderness Area, would impose strict limitations on the development of this prospect, and it is to this particular issue that we address our comments.

Our company is committed to further exploration and development of the geothermal resources of this area. Data from the two wells drilled by Thermal Power Company, in or near this prospect, have indicated high temperatures. In general, surface exploration within T22N, T23N, R35E, indicates a high probability that a productive resource might exist.

There is a growing conviction in the geothermal community that this area deserves to be further explored and tested. A recent discovery by TGS Associates on acreage north of the Lamb Ranch (T25N, R37E), and the recent Federal lease sales have triggered greater interest and increased leasing and exploration activity in Dixie Valley in general. Specific to this area, around Dixie Hot Springs southward (T22N, R34 and 35E), new players have entered the game, leases are changing hands, and geophysical exploration is now accelerating. These are all indications of increasing interest in the further development of this part of the Valley.

It is most likely that the productive geothermal zone would be found on the valley floor rather than in the mountains. The lower areas of the Stillwaters are steep, sloping at an angle of around 35° on the lower portions. Vegetation there is

Comment Letter 15

Wilderness Study Area Statement
November 9, 1993
page 2

sparse, the larger game animals do not inhabit this region, and for the most part, confine themselves to the central mountainous areas; opportunities for recreation and camping are minimal on the lower slopes. Further, the possible increase in the noise from low flying aircraft, which would result if the Navy is permitted to extend its program, would minimize altogether the opportunity for solitude and many of the outdoor activities associated with a natural environment.

Furthermore, the geothermal companies in Dixie Valley are now studying alternate electrical power transmission routes from the Sunedco and TGS geothermal fields north of the Lamb Ranch, which would run southwesterly toward Highway 50. The preferred route would position the corridor approximately along the road, but, in some places it would be necessary to run it approximately 50 yards to the west of the road, to avoid the Humboldt Salt Marsh on the east side. This optimal routing would reduce the cost of power line installation and servicing. So, for purposes of the transmission line, it is also deemed desirable that the alluvial fans west of the road be excluded from the Wilderness Study Area.

Given these considerations, TGS Associates recommends that the eastern boundary of the Stillwater Range Wilderness Study Area be moved one to two miles westward to coincide with the point where the mountain slopes touch the alluvial fans. This boundary would provide geothermal companies with the opportunity to explore and develop the valley floor, which is potentially the most productive area, while impinging minimally on the mountain region where the majority of activities protected by wilderness areas are enjoyed.

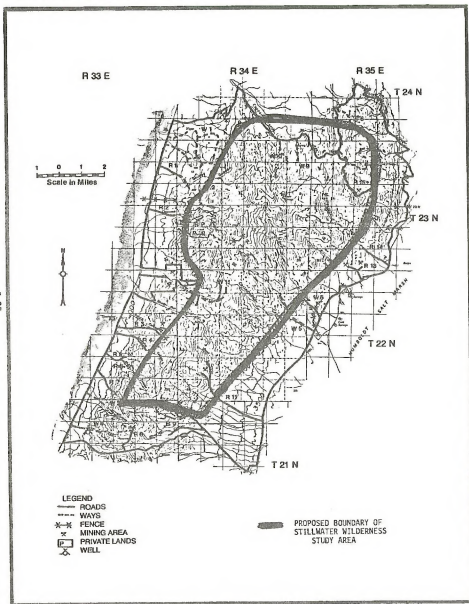
Attachment: map

TRANS-PACIFIC GEOTHERMAL, INC.

Response Letter 15

15-1 This alternative has been considered as part of Alternative B (Partial Wilderness). It should be noted that the entire study area has been recommended as non-suitable for wilderness designation in the Proposed Action.

Comment Letter 15



Comment Letter 16

NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS TASK FORCE NEVADA OUTDOOR RECREATION ASSOCIATION, INC. November 30, 1983

Revised 1983

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Charles S. McElroy, Jr.
Carson City, Nevada
Alvin McElroy
Reno, Nevada
Dennis Lambeth
Carson City, Nevada
Bill Wagner
Las Vegas, Nevada
Lee Vesper, Nevada
Bill Van Dyke
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Hugh Van Dyke
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San Diego, California
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San Francisco, California
Charles C. Collins
Denver, Colorado
Charles H. Haddock
Reno, Nevada

Mr. Thomas J. Owen
Carson City District Manager
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
1050 East William Street, Suite 335
Carson City, Nevada 89701

P.O. Box 1245
Carson City, Nevada 89702

Testimony: Lahontan
Resource Area RMP and
Draft EIS

Dear Tom:

We cannot think of a time when this organization has had to choose words of the gravest terms. What we see in the Lahontan Resource Area Management Resource Plan and draft Environmental Impact Statement--is a serious erosion of the BLM's ability to function professionally. Indeed, we cannot recall a single time where we had to register our--count 'em, four--strenuous protests involving failure to obey National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Federal Lands Policy & Management Act (FLPMA) law and regulations. This is, without a doubt, the worst generic planning and EIS proceeding we have seen initiated in all our 25 years experience in BLM Public Lands.

FIRST PROTEST--Privatization of Public Lands: In all of the viable alternatives the district proposes to sell and/or dispose of--fully 5% of the Public Lands in the Resource Area! 116,500 acres to be sold and it is even contained in the so-called Resource Protection Alternative. We want to believe this is a case of someone not getting the word--that the USDI Secretary and the Property Review Board had unequivocally disowned this type of large scale-sale/disposal scenario on the Public Lands. We could not find an effort to inquire into the consequences against wildlife habitat, flora, soils, threatened species, archeology, potential Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs), cultural values, open space preservation, recreation access & use, social impacts and economic & tax base implications.

Only recently, the city of Reno completed a major study on the rapidly deteriorating economic and environmental consequences and local government's ability to function in the face of ill-planned development. This has negative impact on services, sewage treatment, streets, energy demand, air & water quality. Not one lot is given to this scenario...on the contrary, the thrust justifying disposal is almost exclusively devoted to economic benefit. The BLM proposes agricultural sales; we presume via Desert Land Entry...knowing as we both do, the chronic and tragic failure rate BLM's have had for decades. BLM's have invariably led, sometime down the road, to ruthless land speculation in Nevada. It must be removed from the RMP.

SECOND PROTEST--failure to Designate A.C.E.C.s: The district has completely omitted in the RMP all mention and reference to FLPMA Section 102(a), which requires the identification and meaningful designation of ACEC sites and areas in the district. NORA

* see attachments

(continued)

NORA President

1983-1984

NORA President

Robert L. Owen Carson City, Nevada	George Lane Eureka, Nevada	Frank Johnson Empire, Nevada	James C. White, Sr. Dodge, Nevada	Paul M. Tilden Bathurst, Maryland	Carolee Lavery St. Louis, Missouri
George Rife Sparks, Nevada	Charles Rife Reno, Nevada	Howard Deibel Carson, Nevada	George Hester Fallbrook, Washington	George E. Hester St. Louis, Maryland	

Revised 12/1/83

Comment Letter 16

Lahontan Resource Area RMP & Draft EIS(continued)

page two

has consistently brought its well-known Nevada Outdoor Recreation Resources Index & Survey (herein and hereafter referred to as the "NORA Index & Survey") into the district for at least the last 15 years. Yet, there is not a single reference to it in BLM's glossary or text. In May 17, 1967, the BLM director issued a decision which required the NORA Index & Survey to be fed into BLM planning systems and implemented. We are enclosing a copy of this decision as an addendum to this statement.

A factor in this protest--i.e., failure to designate ACECs--is in regard to almost total absence of discussion of the impacts of the DoD military withdrawal consisting of approx. 127,000 acres. In our NORA Index & Survey, these are some of the ACECs identified, many of which are in direct conflict with the proposed military withdrawal.

(a) Singing Sand Mountain--a major scenic dune system containing dens with far-north occurrences of desert kit foxes and at least two species of Aegialia (new species found in 1977) and Cardiophorus (new species, also identified in 1977). Adjacent to the dune is a critical ACEC cultural site--remnants of the only known Overland Stage/Pony Express station (with 13 known well diggings) in the 40-Mile Desert.

(b) Graves Cliffs/Crimes Point Archeological Zone--a major post Ice Age (approx. 5000 B.C.) Fremont/Anasazi Culture urban center along the ancient shoreline of Lake Lahontan, near Fallon. This area contains critical ancient campsites, vital middens, petroglyphs and artifact impacted caves.

(c) Dixie Valley 1954 Earthquake Fault--a major scientific and geological interpretive zone containing perhaps record single occurrence fault exposures. In NORA Index & Survey, photographs taken as early as 1957 (by NORA co-founder George Kell, Sparks, Nevada) show sudden uplifts and shifts of 12 feet! These are located on both sides of Dixie Valley and on the flanks of Fairview Peak.

(d) Lahontan Petroglyphs Area--located in a wide zone along the eastern shore of Lake Lahontan (reservoir) are scattered rock monoliths with intricate petroglyphs. These are some of the most intricate in the state, as shown by early Alvin Melane photos and sightings dating back to early 1960s (in the NORA Index & Survey).

(e) Soda Lake--recently, a decision by the USDI secretary pursuant to a Federal court order mandated TCID withdrawn lands in this area back to BLM jurisdiction. Soda Lake was identified early in the history of the NORA Index & Survey (in 1959) as an outstanding geological natural area. It is a large sink-hole area northwest of Fallon, and including remnants of the Old California Trail. It contains a large natural briny lake set at the bottom of a scenic crater. Under TCID management, it suffered from grievous neglect. Indeed, it is at this time being used as a dumping ground. It is an outstanding natural wonder deserving of full ACEC protection.

THIRD PROTEST--failure to advise conservation leaders on BLM mailing list:

Early in November, only a few days before the oral hearing in this proceeding, we learned of the release--as early as late September--of both the RMP/EIS and the draft Technical Report on wilderness. Almost all Nevada conservation leaders were forced to seek out and obtain copies of the draft RMP/EIS and Tech. Report. In the oral hearing and in a letter to BLM State Director Ed Spang, we asked for a reasonable delay in the written record. We continue to press our appeal for a delay in the written comment period until February 1, 1984. Many out-of-state citizens had asked NORA to keep them informed of important Nevada BLM proceedings. Thus, for whatever reason surrounding the district's failure to send the reports to those on

(continued)

Response Letter 16

16-1 The Dixie Valley Earthquake Fault is the only one of the features nominated for ACEC status which is located partially within one or more of the Lahontan NSAs. It was recognized as a special feature of those areas during the wilderness study process and was so identified. It has been determined that the fault does not qualify for designation as an ACEC.

Comment Letter 16

Lahontan Resource Area RMP/draft EIS(continued)

page three

the mailing lists, several interested individuals and groups will be effectively denied an opportunity to testify.

FOURTH PROTEST--"generic" consideration of Job Peak WSA:

We have never before, anywhere in the BLM, seen a situation where wilderness values were even acknowledged and recommended in the Commodity Production Alternative(as well as all the other viable alternatives)...and then given a "no wilderness" recommendation in the Preferred Alternative. FLPMA Section 603 mandates the BLM to meaningfully assess wilderness in relation to the conflicts involved. A recommendation for wilderness in the Commodity Production Alternative for all practical purposes, is an admission that the Job Peak WSA (NV-030-127) has wildland that outweighs the conflicts. Under the Congressional mandate, the BLM must recommend wilderness. The Technical report contains no justification for a "no wilderness" recommendation. In fact, portions of the inventoried WSA are acknowledged to have high wilderness value.

Job Peak is one of the most scenic and rugged ridges in the district. It is already one of the most popular with youth groups. The central peak has astonishing views of the Stillwater Marshes and is highly regarded by hikers in the Reno-Sparks-Carson City area for its primitive recreation experience. It contains the highest peak in the Stillwater Range and is noted for its stark rock formations. The WSAs wildland character is acknowledged also by its selection as a desert bighorn sheep reintroduction habitat area. We are especially concerned for the eastern portion of the range--including Box Canyon, Little Box Canyon, and East Lee Canyon. Including the summit area, it is an important raptor area for golden eagles and is a permanent habitat for great horned owls. The area has sheer walls that have become challenges for mountaineers and rock climbers. NORA urges designation of 37,000 acres of the Mid-Range Alternative and an additional 11,500 acres in the central peak area....for a total of 48,500 acres.

OTHER WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATIONS:

(a) Desatoya Mountains(NV-030-110)--we endorse the Preferred Alternative of 43,045 acres. The NORA Index & Survey has long recognized the ruggedness and exceptional primitive character of the region. Indeed, this range was designated in 1959 by the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission(OERRC). Most notable is Big Den Canyon with its towering spires, overhanging cliffs, sculptured and twisted formations....and its unique 30 ft. perennial waterfall. NORA explorations dating back to the mid-1960s have revealed highly scenic, well-watered and densely forested canyons, hidden coves, vital riparian habitat and spectacular rock formations. The range is rich in both spring and autumn wildflower displays, fall foliage, and alpine majesty--the latter seen on peaks rising nearly 10,000 feet. It is known to us as an area of great ecological diversity.

(b) Stillwater Range(NV-030-104):

This is one of the districts more sublime wilderness areas, much of it centering around colorful and scenic Mississippi Canyon. It is augmented by a contiguous and remote area dominated by Hare Canyon. The latter is exceptionally remote and primitive. The range is not as dry as the Technical Report implies....indeed, it is prime habitat for deer, golden eagles, and such unusual flora as smooth phacelia. While the area lacks a single, dominating ridge, it has numerous well-hidden coves and primitive canyons. There are important riparian sites and a primitive recreation experience is afforded by well-screened pinyon-juniper forests. Portions of the vital Dixie Valley 1954 earthquake fault, a recommended ACEC, form the boundary of the WSA on its eastern approaches. Again, we can find no justification

(continued)

Response Letter 16

16-2 The four alternatives analyzed for the Job Peak WSA present a range of management options from "All Wilderness" to "No Action/No Wilderness". Although Alternative C (the "Commodity Production" alternative in the Draft) identified lands which might be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation, this alternative did not eliminate all resource conflicts and/or manageability problems. Wilderness values were rated "good", not "high", in the area which remained under consideration.

The Bureau is not required by either the Wilderness Act or any regulation, instruction memorandum or policy statement to recommend as suitable those lands identified for possible wilderness designation in any particular alternative. It is the Bureau's obligation to examine the impacts of each alternative and then make a decision based on a reasoned analysis of the factors involved and with due regard to the public interest.

After conducting this analysis and considering public comments made during the scoping process and during the Draft RMP/EIS review period, it was determined that the Job Peak WSA should be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation.

Comment Letter 16

Lahontan Resource Area RMP/EIS (continued)

page four

(cont'd.) for the "no wilderness" recommendation for this WSA.

We can visualize some "cherry-stemming" of gold and flourite occurrences along the western approaches to the range. We have noted in BLM records so-called "roads" on the west side. For the most part, they are legitimate ways and trails. Recent storms have made these impassible, even to 4 x 4 vehicles. Almost all receive no regular hand-tool maintenance within the 1979 definition made by USDI Secretary Cecil Andrus. Even the one seemingly valid claim of a maintained road in Lee Canyon (Job Peak WSA) is clearly shown to be a "way" in the BLM's own aerial photographs. The situation is identical in the Stillwater Range--and allows for at least a designation of 40,000 acres as wilderness. Indeed, we view the BLM's "no wilderness" recommendation as an especially serious attempt to impede their clear Congressional mandate to impartially identify wilderness values.

(c) Clan Alpine Range (NV-030-102):

Of all the wilderness areas in the district, this lofty Great Basin range complex has the most widespread primitive and wilderness solitude conditions. At least five canyon systems--Bench, Byers, Dyer, Florence & Horse Creek Canyons--possess important watershed and riparian values. This is one of the most heavily forested WSAs in west-central Nevada. It contains vital, ancient groves of mountain mahogany perhaps deserving of dendrochronological and ice Age scientific research. The range is dominated by 9,966-ft. Mount Augusta and is truly a majestic summit, augmented by several alpine peaks rising over 8,000-ft. The area has caves and adits, and is recognized by the NORA Index & Survey as an outstanding base-camp wildland--from which primitive recreation and exploration can take place in all directions.

The WSA has numerous gorges, hidden canyons, additional seasonal streams, sublime rock formations, isolated springs, important riparian habitat that nurturs such wildlife as cougar, deer, eagles, owls, falcons and sage grouse. The district's Preferred Alternative recommendations of 68,459 acres show why we have suspicions of anti-wilderness bias. The BLM is at odds with its own concept of resource protection--as evidenced by the Resource Protection Alternative's identification of 196,128 acres. A true conservative notion of meaningful wilderness protection is the Mid-Range Alternative of 158,304 acres. Indeed, this is what NORA recommends.

STATEMENT ON CONFLICTS:

Of late, the more extreme factions of the mining industry in Nevada....have pinned their hopes for discrediting wilderness on the Public Lands, on a scenario we've dubbed the "needle biopsy" phenomenon. This is based on the irresponsible notion that micro-sampling of stream washes and x-ray of tiny spot specimens, tends to render these WSAs "terminal" (as if they had cancer!). The effect is largely an anti-wilderness ruse. Indeed, such sampling can produce trace yields and/or "proof-ore" (unexploitable content) of iron, gold, magnesium, potassium, haloids, lead, zinc, silver and even uranium. Yet, our experience (25 years in Nevada) shows that the vast majority of so-called "valuable" mineral assertions are not backed up by proven, in-place, mar-able, valuable and strategic minerals.

We have a point to make about gold--and its supposed conflict with wilderness. Reputable geologists call gold an "opulent" mineral, and some have actually stated its discovery in thin, widely disseminated bodies should not be regarded as a conflict with wilderness. Section 603 of FLPMA is crystal clear. So-called mineral finds that could similarly be made from the sidewalks of Disneyland, are not conflicts with wilderness. Congress required the BLM to find and report back by 1991 wilderness values on blocks of land over 3000 acres. Indeed, that is why Congress required USGS analyses after designation. The radical miners fully expect the BLM to knuckle under to political pressure and exempt them from assuming the burden of proof. If the BLM so much

(continued)

Response Letter 16

16-3 At the time of the completion of the intensive inventory (November 1980) all routes identified as roads in the four Lahontan Resource Area WSAs met the definition of a road found in the Wilderness Inventory Handbook, including the requirement for maintenance by mechanical means. Several of these have received periodic maintenance since that date.

In an amendment made to the Intensive Inventory Report for the Job Peak inventory unit prior to the State Director's designation of the unit as a WSA in November 1980, the ways in East Lee and upper Elleville Canyons were redesignated as "substantially noticeable" intrusions and deleted from the area. This was done in full compliance with the Bureau's wilderness inventory procedures and no comments were received regarding this change. Maintenance of such routes along their existing alignments is allowed by the Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review (IMP).

Comment Letter 16

Lahontan Resource Area RMP/EIS(continued)

page five

(cont'd.) as considers doing such a thing, it would be committing a gross betrayal of their public trust. In addition, the BLM has an obligation to assess the mineral potential of the WSA, on the basis of relative values both within and in the context of values on the surrounding Public Lands in the resource area and in the district.

The BLM cannot succumb to reckless charges that wilderness is a "lock up". It is not! By all reckoning, wilderness is legitimate form of multiple use. No one is harmed if a mere 6 or 7% of the resource area is recommended for wilderness. Indeed, future generations would benefit. In Nevada, as in other areas of the West, certain vested interests have repeated, over and over again, this falsehood that wilderness excludes the public. It is a favorite trick of the Russians..... tell a lie repeatedly and hope the public is gullible enough to believe it. The BLM, on the other hand, cannot irresponsibly attempt to compare apples with oranges. The wildland values of this state are not like those of Utah or Colorado, or any other state or region. Indeed, the California U.S. court has ruled that wilderness must be considered by site-specific methods and take into consideration evidentiary public input.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles S. Watson, Jr.
Charles S. Watson, Jr.
Director

Attachments: see May 17, 1967 letter(3 pages)
see July 7, 1983 Edwin L. Harper(White House) letter
see July 18, 1983 USDI Sec. Watt letter.

Comment Letter 16

ATTACHMENT

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 7, 1983

Honorable James Watt
Secretary of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Watt:

I am writing to clarify the role of the Property Review Board as it relates to the disposal of public lands by the Department of the Interior. In Executive Order 12348 the President directed the Board to develop and review policies of federal agencies as they relate to the management of real property. In this regard, the Board has consulted with the Department of the Interior to determine the Department's current land management policies and to give the Department guidance as to where those policies could be adjusted to make them consistent with the provisions and the philosophy of the Executive Order. The Executive Order did not intend nor has the Board presumed for the Board to become involved in the operational functioning of the agency in regard to the management of the public lands.

The Board has not requested that you consult with it in regard to transactions where land is sold for fair market value. We are interested in the Department's sales program in order to monitor the progress being made in the disposal process, but it is not our intent to in any way inhibit the statutory authority granted you to sell BLM lands. It would be helpful if the Department of the Interior provided the Board monthly with a summary of the previous month's sales activity.

I trust that this letter will clarify any confusion that may have existed concerning the Board's role in the Department of the Interior's disposal process.

Sincerely,

Edwin L. Harper
Edwin L. Harper
Chairman, Property Review Board

Comment Letter 16

ATTACHMENT



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

July 18, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO WESTERN GOVERNORS
From: Secretary of the Interior
Subject: Good Neighbor Policy

I was particularly pleased with the opportunity to share with you the tremendous successes we have had in the last two and a half years. I felt your questions, both in private and public, dramatized the real progress that has been made. The questions that were not asked were more revealing than the questions that were. As I reflect back over the several meetings we have had in the past and compare them to the Montana meeting, I am delighted with the progress that has been made. That is not to suggest, however, that more progress does not yet remain to be realized.

One of the areas that continues to draw criticism deals with the disposal of lands no longer needed by the Federal Government. I am satisfied that the mistakes of 1982 are not being, and will not be, repeated. Each Governor has been briefed, or his staff has been briefed, on our plans for disposing of the few isolated tracts in the respective states. Several of you did suggest that we needed to reduce the involvement of the Property Review Board of the White House in the Department of the Interior activities. I assured you that as a practical matter they were not involved, but I would seek to formalize that relationship.

Upon returning to Washington, I have secured from the Chairman of the Property Review Board a letter that clearly states that the Board was not to "become involved in the operational functioning of the agency (Interior) in regard to the management of the public lands." I am attaching a copy of that letter just so that there can be no doubt. I am satisfied, based on the private conversations and the public dialogue, that there is no room for criticism of this program as it relates to future activities. Criticism of the past is for the most part justified.

I look forward to improving relationships and thank you for helping us to be as successful as we have been.

If you have any concerns or questions, please call. The rule continues to be that if I don't hear from you, things are going well.

Comment Letter 16

ATTACHMENT



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

REF ID: A61017 (712e)

May 17, 1967

Mr. Charles S. Watson, Jr.
P. O. Box 6601, Lemay Branch
6197a Lemay Ferry Road
St. Louis, Missouri 63125

Dear Mr. Watson:

Thank you for your letter of May 10, 1967 and the attached correspondence from Mr. Baker to Dr. Lyon, dated April 27, and Mr. Baker's letter to you on the same date.

You have raised several questions in your letter that I will try to answer as best I know how:

1. "It would appear that his letter to Dr. Lyon indicates Mr. Baker knows nothing at all about the 'task force' on recreation you discussed with George Keil and I early last year. I had understood that during your trip to Nevada, at that time, you discussed this with Mr. Baker and Mr. Keil. As I recall it was agreed 'BOLA' Inc. would be made a part of this 'task force on recreation'."

Answer:

My one and only trip to Reno, Nevada in connection with the N.O.R.A. Program was when Mr. Penny was State Director. Mr. Keil was at that time Assistant State Director of California. A meeting was held by me with Mr. Keil of N.O.R.A., Mr. Penny and Mr. Baker at that time. As I recall, our general discussion with Mr. Keil centered around a "joint effort" on the part of N.O.R.A., BLM and other agencies, to identify, study, exchange information, and assess outstanding scenic, natural, historic and outdoor recreation opportunities on BLM lands in Nevada. In my phone conversation yesterday with Mr. Baker, he stated that he recalled no specific reference to the establishment of a task force during this meeting. I believe this to be understandable in that our discussion was general and was mostly focused on joint efforts in the exchange of information and how N.O.R.A. and BLM could best accomplish this. As I recall, no reference was made toward establishment of a working group, membership of group or assigned responsibilities normally considered the formation of a task force. I am assuming that you have somewhat the same viewpoint of what constitutes a task force.

Comment Letter 16

ATTACHMENT

It was my view during that meeting and subsequent meetings with you, that joint efforts are necessary between your organization and ours (and other agencies) to be sure that all the outdoor recreation opportunities on BLM lands in Nevada are identified and that we move as rapidly as we can to preserve and protect them within the limitation of funds and manpower.

It was not my intention to establish a task force on recreation for Nevada with specific membership, specific duties and specific responsibilities, but rather your group and ours work together jointly to freely exchange information and receive the benefit of individual knowledge, expertise and experience. I recall stating to you that joint effort could best be accomplished by identified individuals of your organization and ours studying together the opportunities in Nevada. This is what I envisioned we would do, both here and at the field level. Whether I called it "task force" or "joint effort" I truthfully don't recall. Nevertheless, it still is my view that we should continue to objectively analyze together cooperatively the Nevada recreation resources - endeavoring to find ways to preserve and protect them. You are, and have been the spokesman for N.O.R.A., and I have sought to the best of my ability to discuss with you the various problems in order that you can participate jointly in our effort; I will continue to do this. I do not, however, feel that this effort requires a formal working group with an established membership and responsibilities.

2. "I would also appreciate an explanation of what Mr. Baker means by his claim that N.O.R.A.'s survey had been considered. . . ."

Answer:

It would be my thinking that Mr. Baker is referring to actions taken both at the Washington level and Nevada level in connection with the N.O.R.A. survey.

A good deal of time has been spent at both levels in comparisons of inventory information, analysis of significant areas, and, being sure that all possible opportunities are identified. This includes microfilming the N.O.R.A. survey at the State Office, and providing the respective District offices with all this information. Each District office in its development of plans for protection, preservation and development is giving and will give full consideration to N.O.R.A.'s inventory along with BLM's to be sure that no opportunities are missed. To my knowledge your inventory and assessment of significant areas is a very basic part of our inventory, and that through the exchange of information between N.O.R.A. and BLM, both of us have a pretty good picture.

Comment Letter 16

ATTACHMENT

I have always enjoyed our discussions over the many hours we have spent analyzing inventories and problems of protection of the Nevada recreation resources. I hope you will continue to give me your viewpoints and comments as they occur to you.

Sincerely yours,

Eldon F. Holmes

Eldon F. Holmes
Chief, Recreation Staff

Comment Letter 17



December 22, 1983

Thomas J. Owen, District Manager
BLM Carson City District
1050 East Williams Street, Suite 335
Carson City, NV 89701

Re: Lahontan RMP Wilderness

Dear Mr. Owen:

The Lahontan Audubon Society endorses the concept of Wilderness for portions of Nevada. We feel that your process has identified those areas that meet the legal requirements and special features required for wilderness in Nevada.

We endorse the objectives and wilderness recommendations of the Mid-Range Alternative as a balance between protection of natural values and production of commercial resources. This alternative would improve the condition of the public rangelands, so as to enhance productivity for all rangeland values; would maintain and improve wildlife habitat, especially riparian habitat; would manage for adequate wild horses at their present levels; and would recommend wilderness for the areas with the highest values, low resource conflicts and with manageable boundaries.

Sincerely

Janet C. Meierdierck
President, Lahontan Audubon Society

Comment Letter 18



ECOLOGY CENTER OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
Project of Educational Communications, Inc.
P.O. Box 35473, Los Angeles, CA 90035

Telephone: (213) 559-9160

December 19, 1983

Mr. Thomas J. Owen
Carson City District Manager
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
1050 E. William St., Suite 335
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear Mr. Owen:

While most of the members of the Ecology Center of Southern California are from the greater Los Angeles area, we do have members throughout the country who are concerned about our public lands. And as recreationalists, members do travel to federal lands in both the California as well as the Nevada desert, especially because of the ecological similarities and proximity. Consequently, we would like to comment on your plans for the Lehontan Resource Area.

Without a doubt, more lands are need in the wilderness designation category. The Ecology Center urges you to consider wilderness recommendations in all of your Wilderness Study Areas (WSA) and to list more Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC).

While your district has designated 3 ACECs, why have you failed to include these significant ACECs:

- Grimes Point--an archeological site with petroglyphs intricately carved on basaltic rocks
- Graves Cliffs and Caves--suspected Anasazi (Prenont) people activity site from c. 5000 B.C.
- Carson Sink Sloughs--desert marshes with abundant wildlife
- Stinging Sand Mountain--major dune area with rare endemic invertebrates (Legillia sp. and Cardiphorus species) and kit fox dens
- 18-1 | Dixie Valley 1954 Earthquake Zone--major scientific and geological interpretive zone; features of the 1954 earthquake rift
- Wonder Ghost Town--remains of 1906 gold rush showing historic buildings, sedimentary formations and possibly a fossil deposit
- Kaleidoscopic View--vista of entire Lake Lehontan ancient lakebed
- Lehontan East Petroglyphs--a zone of petroglyph-olad monoliths
- Soda Lake--a geological area highlighted by a huge sinkhole containing a large briny lake; has portions of the California Trail with possible artifacts along the way

18-2 | As our organization comments on wilderness proposals by Bureau of Land Management Districts throughout our areas of interest, we believe that had precedents should not be established. From the sound of your recommendations it would be a terrible precedent to include "no wilderness" suggestion in "Preferred Alternatives" and have recommended wilderness only in "Commodity Production Alternatives". How can this be justified?

Response Letter 18

18-1 The Dixie Valley Earthquake Fault is the only feature listed which is located partially within one or more of the Lehontan WSAs. It was recognized as a special feature of those areas during the wilderness study process and was so identified. It has been determined that the fault does not qualify for designation as an ACEC.

18-2 Please refer to Response 16-2.

Comment Letter 18

ECOLOGY CENTER OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LETTER--page 2

Please reconsider the following Wilderness Study Areas and include some of the following recommendations:

Mid-Range Alternative--Add more than 11,900 to BLM's 37,000 for a total of 48,900 acres. Job Road at 8,785 and highest in the Stillwater Range needs protection along with its canyons Box, Little Box and East Lee Canyons which are all notably scenic. Habitat would also be protected for golden eagle raptors and great horned owls. There is no reason that a grazing permittee should have the government upgrade his access to a road and thus disqualify much of this WSA or be allowed to do the work himself. The public's public land should be maintained with as few such changes as necessary so that proper planning and designation can proceed.

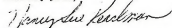
Desotoys Mountains WSA (NV-030-110)--The BLM Preferred Alternative of 43,045 seems to protect most of Big Den Canyon with other canyons and waterfalls. This area which has riparian habitat and alpine vegetation plus scenic canyons deserves full protection.

Stillwater Range WSA (NV-030-104)--Both Mississippi and Hare Canyons dominate this lovely rugged area which is habitat for deer, golden eagles, and unusual flora. Would protect some of the 1954 Dixie Valley Earthquake Fault along with hidden coves and primitive side canyons if 40,000 acres are saved.

Glen Alpine Mountains WSA (NV-030-102)--Again Canyons (Bench, Byers, Dyer, Horse and Florence Creek) dominate an area which provides watershed and riparian values. The mountain mahogany could provide excellent scientific research opportunities. This Mid-Range Alternative should have 158,504 acres of wilderness not just 68,458 acres.

The Ecology Center of Southern California members look forward to your agency keeping us informed about your wilderness and other land use planning issues in your district. We appreciate our comments being included in the official hearing record.

Sincerely yours,



Nancy Sue Pearlman
Executive Director

NSP:es

Comment Letter 19



SIERRA CLUB

Toiyabe Chapter - Nevada and Eastern California

PLEASE REPLY TO:

☐ GREAT BASIN GROUP

☐ LAS VEGAS GROUP

☐ UNIVERSITY DISTRICT

P.O. Box 19777

☐ NEW, Nevada 89307

Las Vegas, Nevada 89119

January 1, 1984

Tom Owen, Manager
BLM/Carson City District
1856 E. Williams St.
Carson City, NV 89701

Dear Manager Owen,

On behalf of the Public Lands Committee and the Great Basin Group of the Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club, we are submitting these comments on the Lahontan Draft Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

In general, we find the DRMP/DEIS to be procedurally inadequate. 1. It does not include a no grazing alternative. 2. It does not include an adequate range of alternatives: i.e., lands section - 116,588 acres to be disposed in 3 of 5 alternatives; wildlife section - mule deer % change - 76% in 4 of 5 alternatives. 3. There is no substantive difference between the mid-range alternative and the preferred alternative in 4 of 5 categories of actions: identical actions are proposed in 3 areas of rangeland management and in lands (Table 1). Only the wilderness recommendations differ substantially with the supposedly balanced preferred alternative proposing total elimination of 2 of the 4 wilderness study areas for wilderness designation, or an acreage less than 1/2 of the mid-range alternative.

The DRMP/DEIS is substantively inadequate. 1. The proposed actions will result in only a 2-3% improvement in ecological condition. 2. The cost benefit of projected range improvements must be questioned as the most optimistic alternative projects only a 21% increase in AUMs, at a cost of \$38.46/AUM or \$19,184.26/permittee. 3. All alternatives are basically no-action alternatives which don't improve range conditions, don't substantially increase forage for livestock, don't provide for reasonable wildlife numbers, don't find any AEC's in 2.4 million acres. All most of the alternatives do is eliminate over 3/4 of the acreage of the WSAs from wilderness recommendation due to speculative minerals. 4. The Lahontan is another programmatic EIS with "problems" and "solutions" shuffled around to make up several "alternatives," all of which are basically - "do nothing and monitor."

Chapter 2
Specifically, eliminated from consideration despite public requests is analysis of a no grazing alternative. The rationale cited for its rejection on p.2-1 is very weak. The claim that

To explore, enjoy, and protect the natural resource store...

Response Letter 19

19-1 The Proposed Action was developed from input provided by the public during the scoping process and from further analysis of the data. This process resulted in selection of the midrange alternative for the range and lands issues in the Draft RMP/DEIS and the development of an additional alternative for the wilderness issue.

Comment Letter 19

the analysis of a no grazing alternative "would not have resolved the grazing issues in the RMP area" is a non-sequitur and might also apply to categorizing allotments into M, I, and C. The claim that "overall vegetation utilization is only 38%" does not excuse BLM from improving its range management practices, does not explain away the problems summarized in Table 3-8 or the less than satisfactory range conditions summarized in Table 3-1 and does not justify the elimination of a no grazing alternative.

In addition, overgrazing in the Lahontan RA appears to be reduced semantically to "overuse of some riparian areas." (p. 2-1) We disagree that overgrazing only occurs at riparian areas and on examination of the narrative disagree that "68% of the riparian sites are being damaged by livestock and wild horse use" (p. 3-3) represents some problem, but actually is a critical problem for wildlife dependent on this one percent of the total land area in the RA.

And, finally, consideration of a no grazing alternative won't really "force the typical public land rancher out of business" any more than consideration of a no wilderness alternative would land BLM in legal trouble with wilderness protectionists. In fact, a no grazing alternative was considered in the Egan DRMP/EIS and no ranchers were driven out of business nor did it "result in the breakup of family and community stability." The Ely BLM District instead analyzed the no grazing alternative "to show the possible range of management actions that could be implemented."

The reference to the likely result of "prolonged litigation from the livestock industry" is particularly ludicrous as the omission of a no grazing alternative in a prior EIS written by the Carson City District, the Reno EIS, did lead to "prolonged litigation" from NRDC. And how CEQ regulation 1502.14 could excuse the consideration of a no grazing alternative in the Lahontan RMP, but require its consideration in the Egan RMP is a really neat trick. Besides, as we understand it, the no grazing alternative is specifically required as part of the settlement of the NRDC lawsuit against programmatic BLM EISs, not just as one of a range of alternatives required by NEPA.

We disagree with the discussion of Issue #1 on p.2-1. While overgrazing may include "competition among grazing animals," poor livestock distribution, and year-round grazing, it generally refers to a situation in which forage demand exceeds forage supply. Although the Lahontan DRMP speaks to range conditions and livestock management problems, it does not estimate how much forage demand exceeds forage supply, nor does it propose actions which would adjust demand to supply.

While we generally support the resource protection alternative, we feel it is a feeble effort in an overall inadequate plan to balance land management among all the multiple uses, especially at sustained yield levels. Are 46,696 AUMs (plus 17,000 other AUMs) within the carrying capacity of the Lahontan RA? If not,

Comment Letter 19

we couldn't support that level of grazing use.

Table 2-1 is a refreshing part of the DRMP, perhaps a first in Nevada. We support the display of the breaking down of range improvements among cattle, wild horses, and wildlife, although not necessarily the actual breakdown. We were pleased to see water developments planned as part of wild horse management and riparian area protection as part of wildlife management. However, we totally oppose range improvements unless these are part of an AMP or BMPs, which provide for overall management. Otherwise, range improvements are just money down a rathole, if more serious range management problems are not simultaneously addressed.

Table 2-2 looks good, but would be far more useful to these reviewers if it would include condition classes on all riparian areas and streams. Then, we would be able to determine whether the protection of 54.2 miles of stream is significant or merely a token amount of protection.

The discussion of objectives under wilderness (p. 2-7) is quite a problem. Removing "parts of the wilderness study area with the lowest wilderness quality" from portions recommended as suitable for wilderness is not permitted by the Wilderness Act. In fact, the Wilderness Act and BLM regulations state that not every foot of a wilderness has to possess equal wilderness attributes. Common sense would indicate to most of us that areas on the edge of a wilderness would not necessarily possess the same degree of outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation as interior sections. Most of us would agree, however, that eliminating the areas just within wilderness boundaries will eventually eliminate the wilderness. Such a rationale is illogical, ill-considered, and illegal.

We oppose the transfer from federal ownership of 116,588 acres. Such a huge disposal is out of political favor now anyway, as privatization has gone the way of Secretary Watt. BLM makes no effort to support its contention that the disposal of 116,588 acres is in the national interest. What management problems does checkerboard land pose? Have Gabbs, Fallon, Fernley, and Dixie Valley requested lands for community expansion? Current law provides for public land disposal for community expansion and public purposes, not for private profit.

We would support consolidation of checkerboard land if a management problem actually exists, but not transfer. We would like to point out that continued BLM management of most public lands is not cost-effective. Thank God that cost effectiveness is not the only criteria for public land management. And while Fallon may need lands for community expansion, Gabbs' depressed economy and the recent boom threat to property values in Dixie Valley would argue against the need or ability for extensive public lands for community expansion. And before "lands with possible agricultural potential in Edwards Creek Valley" are sold, BLM should require legal proof that there is unallocated

Response Letter 19

19-2 The Wilderness Act does not prohibit deleting portions of study areas. Such deletions were prohibited by Bureau regulations during the inventory phase of the Wilderness Review Process. However, during the study phase of the process, qualitative differences in wilderness values of various portions of the Wilderness Study Areas are considered. It is appropriate to take these qualitative differences into consideration in the development of alternatives. In the development of Alternative B (formerly the Midrange alternative in the Draft) areas with lower wilderness values were retained where needed to protect adjacent higher quality areas. It should be noted that several criteria were employed in the formulation of the alternatives, only one of which was the quality of wilderness values.

Comment Letter 19

State water in the valley to support agricultural uses. Otherwise, the problems of DUE abandonments will be repeated. Also, the 116,500 acres used in 4 alternatives is inadequate as a range of alternatives and violates NEPA.

While the Sierra Club has supported and participates in the CRMP process, we still do not accept it as a substitute for public control of public land decision making. What if a permittee refuses to go through CRMP? SLM cannot force a rancher to participate. Who then makes grazing and other resource decisions? How will the public be involved? What allotments in the Lahontan RA are scheduled for CRMP in 1984?

We object strenuously to the inclusion of "Grazing Treatments and Systems" in the DRMP. Not only are programmatic solutions to programmatic problems illegal, they are unreasonable and won't work! The "treatments" are lifted, nearly word for word, from the Reno RMP/EIS which is in litigation partly because of its programmatic format. Why does the Carson City District persist in this error?

While SOP #6 states that a Benefit/Cost analysis will be performed on range improvements, it does not state that a 1:8 ratio will be required. Does SLM plan to fund "improvements" where costs exceed benefits?

In SOP #14, don't mineral rights stay with the federal government whether of nominal or of significant value?

Shouldn't the determination of suitability in SOP #15 for land disposal also include an analysis of wildlife habitat values or livestock grazing values or wild horse management?

Chapter 3

Why doesn't the description of phenology on p.3-5 match that of Table 3-3? We find it peculiar that according to Table 3-3, "critical growth periods" for most key plant species don't occur until 5-1, long after too early grazing has perpetuated the continuing degradation of plant communities by livestock. We tend to accept the statements on p. 3-3 as closer to standard professional range management and botanical conceptions of phenology. The point is important as Table 3-3 would apparently excuse SLM from efforts to eliminate too early spring grazing which even SLM acknowledges results "in the reduction of both the quality and quantity of forage" as well as the degradation of other resource values.

Tables 3-1, 3-2, and 3-8 were very informative, compared to the rest of the DRMP/DEIS. We do find it perplexing that SLM can calculate an allotment's ecological condition, trend, and utilization for analysis purposes only, but not for the purposes of establishing stocking levels - i.e., adjusting livestock numbers to the carrying capacity of the RA. (p. 4-1)

We reject the categorization of allotments as an exercise in

Comment Letter 19

futility, designed to fool the public into believing that BLM is actually doing something about overgrazing on the public lands. However, we do feel strongly that the White Cloud allotment should be placed in the I category. We do not see how BLM can regard an allotment with year-round grazing, with almost 25% of its acreage in poor ecological condition and over 28% of its acreage in poor forage condition, and with over 16% heavy to severe utilization of vegetation to be in satisfactory range condition with satisfactory management and no land use conflicts.

Table 3-5 has 2 errors we are aware of. 1. There is no plant called Eriogonum lemmonii. The plant is Eriogonum lemmonii. 2. A very rare plant which grows in the Truckee Canyon is omitted - Astragalus porrectus. We hope other T&E plants have not been omitted.

The wilderness resource was shabbily treated in the preferred alternative. The Lahontan Wilderness Technical Report shows little sensitivity to or appreciation of wilderness, resulting in abominable wilderness recommendations. We have hiked, camped, and backpacked extensively in all 4 WSAs, sometimes by ourselves and sometimes with Sierra Club and other groups who enjoy the experience of desert wilderness. We consider ourselves as such "locals" as residents of Gabbs and Dixie Valley. These WSAs are the closest to Reno, Sparks, and Carson City where we can enjoy wilderness without the crowds who have to make reservations for Sierra Nevada wilderness trips.

We support the Midrange Alternative for the Clan Alpines of 152,888 acres. Its spectacular wild places are favorites of ours, for both primitive recreation and for true solitude. Some Sierra Club members have been visiting the Desatoyas for decades, enjoying the high secluded basins and the challenges of its rugged terrain. We support the preferred alternative of 43,045 acres. 49,888 acres in Job's Peak should be recommended as wilderness. Its proximity to Reno (little over an hour drive) makes it a favorite for challenging day hikes. We support the Stillwater as wilderness to include 48,838 acres. We are still looking for a fossil site found one year and lost after flash floods changed the topography of the nearby area. We recommend maximum wilderness protection for all 4 areas.

We also find it hard to believe that BLM cannot find areas of critical environmental concern in the 2.4 million acres of the Lahontan RA. Since BLM failed to recognize its ACECs, we would like to support WORA's nominations of Grimes Point, Graves Cliffs, Carson Sink Sloughs, Sand Mountain, Dixie Valley Earthquake Fault Zone, Wonder ghost town, Kalsidescopic View, Lahontan Reservoir East Petroglyphs, and Soda Lake.

In conclusion, we find the Lahontan DRMP/DEIS to be a dismal failure of a plan, designed to uphold the status quo, and afraid to propose necessary actions to improve range conditions for all the multiple resources and users. The few good actions proposed are too little and too late. The big problems of improving range

Response Letter 19

19-3 Please refer to Response 16-1.

Comment Letter 19

management and adjusting livestock numbers to range carrying capacity are totally avoided by denying adequate "data" on which to base adjustments. We feel fairly certain that the Carson City District will never have adequate data on which to base reductions in livestock numbers, despite the fact that it has better resource data than any other BLM district in Nevada. Only Congress and the courts will improve range management in the Lahontan RA.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,



Rose Strickland, Chair
Public Lands Committee



Dennis Ghiglieri, Chair
Great Basin Group

Comment Letter 20



SIERRA CLUB

Toiyabe Chapter - Nevada and Eastern California

January 3, 1984

Mr. Thomas J. Owen, District Manager
Carson City District
Bureau of Land Management
1050 East William St., Suite 335
Carson City, NV 89701

Dear Tom,

The attached maps and written comments are in addition to, and should be appended to, the oral testimony I presented on behalf of the Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club at the November 9th public hearing on the Lahontan RA Wilderness Study Areas in Reno.

As we stated at the hearing, the Toiyabe Chapter commends the BLM for recommending portions of the Clan Alpine Mountains and Desatoya WSA's as suitable for wilderness preservation. However, we urge you to recommend the 158,504-acre Mid-Range Alternative boundary in the Clan Alpines rather than the Preferred Alternative.

In the Desatoyas, while we supported the Preferred Alternative at the hearing, we would like to strongly urge you to reconsider adding to this proposal the approximately 6,000 acres of the WSA between the Cedar Canyon (R-13) and Topia Creek (R-12) roads. As the Wilderness Technical Report properly states on page 50, way W-11 between these two roads is very bad and totally impassable much of the year. The manageability of a Desatoya wilderness and its wilderness values would be significantly enhanced by the closure of this way as is pointed out on page 59 of the Wilderness Technical Report.

20-1 We also strongly urge you to recommend a portion of the Job's Peak WSA as suitable. Attached is a map of a modified Mid-Range Alternative boundary including approximately 49,000 acres of the WSAs' 90,000 acres. This 49,000-acre proposal possesses outstanding wilderness values, yet removes most of the resource and manageability conflicts. We believe it should be recommended as wilderness.

Lastly, we have attached a map of a modified Mid-Range Alternative including approximately 40,000 of the Stillwater Range WSAs' 94,607 acres. It again includes the areas of highest wilderness values while eliminating most conflicts. We urge you to consider recommending an area along these lines.

A most important point regarding potential mineral resource conflicts with wilderness recommendations is that only the areas BLM recommends now as wilderness will have a USGS mineral study. So that, Congress - the final decision maker - may have the benefit

LAS VEGAS GROUP
P.O. Box 1977
Las Vegas, Nevada 89119

To explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth...

GREAT BASIN GROUP
P.O. Box 8096
University Station
Reno, Nevada 89327

Response Letter 20

20-1 A re-examination of the Proposed Action was conducted in light of the suggestions included in this comment letter. It was determined that the Proposed Action, as presented in the Draft RMP and this EIS, assesses all resource values and conflicts and correctly identifies those lands which are suitable for wilderness designation.

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20-1

of more information. Thus, if an area has plainly-evident wilderness values and possible mineral values, any error at this stage of the process should be on the side of recommending the area suitable for wilderness preservation.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit our views. We look forward to working with you on the continuing management of these magnificent areas.

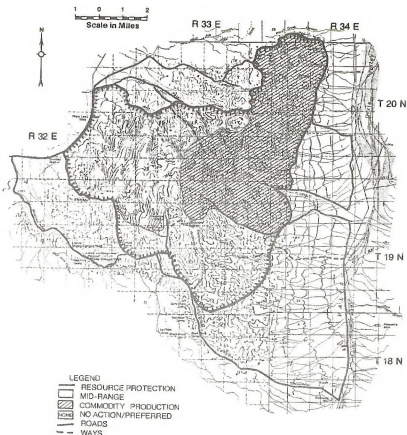
Sincerely,

Roger Scholl

Roger Scholl, Chairman
Wilderness Committee

93-9

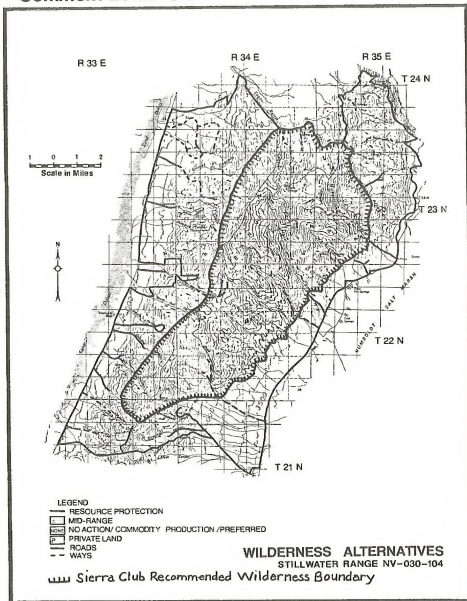
Comment Letter 20



Sierra Club Recommended Wilderness Boundary

WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVES
JOB PEAK NV-030-127

Comment Letter 20



Comment Letter 21

Alta Exploration, Inc.

5200 NEIL ROAD, No. 210
RENO, NEVADA 89502
(702) 827-0111

December 30, 1983

Bureau of Land Management
1050 E. William Street #335
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Mr. Owen:

I concur with your preferred alternative recommendation to return the Stillwater and Job's Peak WSA to multiple use management, however I strongly disagree that non-wilderness designation will have an adverse affect upon the units in whole or any of the specific areas and/or eco-systems which you identified in your EIS.

Rather than a massive influx of development I would suggest a moderate amount of development. As mineral potential is developed in certain areas, the disturbances may become semi-permanent due to the general characteristics of the units the disturbances will soon disappear if not continuously maintained. The mineral potential of the Stillwater and Job's Peak units is to great to be removed from exploration and development.

I contend that the mineral potential in the Clas Alpine WSA, as proposed for wilderness designation in your EIS is to great to be removed from access for exploration and development.

Within the area proposed for wilderness designation the dominant rock type is Tertiary extrusive an minor intrusive rhyolite and rhyodacite. These are the same or similar to the host rocks for the deposits found at Farview Peak, Ball Mountain, Wonder, the Florence Canyon prospects in Churchill County, and are similar to the host rock for the famed Comstock Lode.

In addition, rocks of this type and age have long been considered potential host rocks for uranium or other radio active mineral deposits. Because of the current economic depression in the uranium exploration industry there is very little activity anywhere. However at a future date when uranium prices improve relative to the economy there may be a substantial exploration potential within the proposed wilderness area. Geological reconnaissance indicates a basin or major synclinal structure within the proposed wilderness area. This type of feature is very favorable for deposition of uranium at proper chemical and structural traps.

Comment Letter 21

Bureau of Land Management 2.

December 30, 1983

The geographical and topographical nature of the Clan Alpines is such that the area will remain in essentially its current state with very minor exceptions with a "No Action" alternative.

The Bureau in its evaluation has adopted a worst case scenario in all cases but the Preferred and Protection alternatives.

Many of the conclusions drawn have absolutely no known basis, or scientific data upon which such pessimistic conclusions could logically be drawn.

21-1 In the EIS the Bureau states that their would be an increase of \$26,000 in annual regional income because of the designation of wilderness. Unfortunately the myopic eye of the Bureau failed to notice the loss in income to the county from restricted exploration activity, which is usually the only major activity occurring during non-hunting portions of the year in the affected portion of Churchill County. The potential lost income due to reduced demand for lodging, food, fuel and supplies for exploration and drilling crews far out weighs the possible increase as projected by BLM from the preferred alternative.

Many of the wilderness qualities the Bureau is attempting to preserve are often adversely affected by wilderness designation. An excellent example is the Desolation Valley Wilderness Area. Where public access has severely limited by the Forest Service, in an attempt to reduce over-crowding. Many visitors to a wilderness area come only because of the wilderness designation. The same visitors are the ones who leave trash about and have caused the "cesspool" smell on many of the trails in the Desolation Wilderness.

Under non-designation those individuals who truly enjoy the wilderness will still be able to, while allowing the development and utilization of the nations natural resources.

For those reasons I urge the Bureau of Land Management to adopt a no action alternative as the preferred alternative.

Sincerely,


Robert C. Carrington
Vice President

d

Alta Exploration, Inc. 5290 NEIL ROAD, No. 210 • RENO, NEVADA 89502

Response Letter 21

21-1 The \$26,000 increase referred to applies only to recreation related income. It is recognized on page 4-54 of the Draft that opportunities for increased energy and mineral production would be foregone, but that this could not be quantified due to lack of data. This section has been modified to include income generated by exploration activities.

Comment Letter 22

Defenders OF WILDLIFE

December 31, 1983

Mr. Thomas J. Owen
District Manager
Carson City District
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
1050 East William Street, Suite 335
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear Mr. Owen:

Defenders of Wildlife submits this letter as our comments and recommendations on your Lahontan Resource Area Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and Resource Management Plan (RMP).

At the outset, we are greatly disappointed with the RMP recommendation to identify 116,500 acres of public land for sale or disposal. This proposal is appallingly reminiscent of the "privatization" concepts which were repudiated by the White House and Property Review Board and former Interior Secretary Watt during the summer of 1983. We especially oppose the Chilton Engineers "checkerboard" Land sale. BLM's alternate sections adjacent to the Humboldt River must be maintained in public ownership, because of their importance for fish, wildlife, and other resource values.

We are also greatly disappointed that this Resource Area currently has no Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) nor are any ACECs proposed or identified in the DEIS/RMP. This reluctance to identify and protect ACECs violates Sections 102(a) and 201(a) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. We recommend that you immediately proceed to identify and protect ACECs in this Resource Area. For example, we recommend the Carson Sink Sloughs for ACEC protection. This area contains important desert marshes north of the Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge. These desert marshes possess significant natural values, including their use by migratory waterfowl. In addition, we recommend Singing Sand Mountain for ACEC protection. This is a significant dune ecosystem with rare endemic invertebrates and other species. Unusual kit fox dens have been reported on this site.

We believe that the wilderness recommendations are patently inadequate. The Job Peak Wilderness Study Area (WSA) should be expanded to a total of 48,500 acres for wilderness protection.

Response Letter 22

22-1 Please refer to Response 16-1.

Comment Letter 22

2.

The Stillwater Range WSA should be recommended for 40,000 acres of wilderness. Much of this area contains important habitat for golden eagles, deer, and unique flora. The Clan Alpine Mountains WSA should receive wilderness protection for 158,504 acres. The Bench, Byers, Dyer, Horse, and Florence Creek Canyons have especially important riparian and watershed benefits.

Finally, we support and applaud BLM's Preferred Alternative of 43,045 acres of wilderness protection for the Desatoya Mountains WSA. This area contains diverse and productive natural values.

Thank you very much for considering our views.

Sincerely,

Richard Spotts

Richard Spotts
California/Nevada Representative
Defenders of Wildlife

5604 Rosedale Way
Sacramento, California 95822
(916) 442-6386

RS/js

Comment Letter 23

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

1936 OHIO UNIVERSITY CIRCLE
CLEVELAND, OHIO 44106
DNB 231-4600

December 30, 1983

Mr. Thomas J. Owen, District Manager
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
1050 E. William Street, Suite 335
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Re: Clan Alpine Mountains (NV-030-102), Stillwater Range (NV-030-104),
Desatoya (NV-030-110), Job Peak (NV-030-127) Wilderness Study Areas

Dear Mr. Owen:

One of the major concerns of our Museum is the preservation and study of the natural environment. Areas where the effects of man are subordinate, i.e., wilderness are fast disappearing in the United States and around the world. The Museum favors preservation of these areas wherever practical. Each of the four Wilderness Study Areas in the Lehonton Reserve Area was found to have high wilderness values and characteristics during the intensive Wilderness Inventory. As such, these areas are worthy of protection unless there is a management or mineral/energy conflict so massive that the area cannot be managed as wilderness. Management conflicts are minimal because of low population density and low recreational use. There is no mineral or energy production currently in any of the Wilderness Study Areas. Question of the potential for such production should be left to the professional expertise of the USGS and USBM in the next inventory phase.

Three of the areas contain unique ecosystems. These are Clan Alpine Mountains and Desatoya Wilderness Study Areas which have mountain mahogany-oak scrub ecosystems. These ecosystems are nowhere else in the National Wilderness Preservation System. It is essential that the greatest protection and acreage possible be given these two areas. The Job Peak Wilderness Study Area is sacred ground to native Americans and also contains a reintroduction of Desert Bighorn Sheep which require solitude and protection which should be provided.

Please include these concerns in the official record of public comment on the draft Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement. Please keep us informed of any further actions concerning wilderness in the District. Any response by BLM or others to this comment would be appreciated. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Harold O. Mahan
Dr. Harold O. Mahan
Director

HOM:hy

Comment Letter 24

ASARCO

January 3, 1984

Exploration Department
Great Basin Division

Mr. Edward F. Spang
State Director
Bureau of Land Management
300 Booth Street
Reno, Nevada 89520

Dear Mr. Spang:

We at ASARCO appreciate the opportunity to express our opinion on the Lahontan Resource Management Plan. After reading the provided draft and technical report on the Lahontan RMP, it is our choice that the 'no action' alternative be applied in future land use decisions. ASARCO has at this time active exploration programs in all areas designated in the Lahontan RMP and advocates keeping these areas open for present day and future mineral exploration.

The Great Basin Province is one of the most diverse mineralogical provinces in North America. Due to this diversity of mineral environments and the large size of the province, it offers outstanding potential for hosting economic mineral deposits. Geologic ideas, interpretations, and observations are constantly evolving, bringing new economic potential to the greater than thirty mining districts encompassed by the Lahontan RMP. It is our feeling that withdrawing all or part of the land specified in the Lahontan RMP would restrict or prevent present and future economic evaluation on both the individual and corporate level.

Once again, we would like to thank you for the opportunity to express our opinions on the Lahontan Resource Management Plan, and to advocate the implementation of the 'no action' alternative.

Sincerely yours,

Barney E. Mason
Barney E. Mason
Geologist

cc: Mr. W. L. Kurtz
Mr. F. T. Graybeal
Mr. P. G. Vikre

ASARCO Incorporated
510 East Plumb Lane

Reno, NV 89502
(702) 826-7007

Comment Letter 25

District Manager, BLM
Carson City District
1050 E. William Ste. 335
Carson City, NV 89701

Dear Sir:

In your recent public hearings in Fallon I am sure some spectators expressed the importance of grazing in the local economy and the need to maintain or increase current AUM levels. But overall, the economy-long term depends on the condition of the range. Total cost to all taxpayers will be less if the habits present are not altered.

Intangible economic benefits include natural resources such as wild sheep, deer, chicken, quail and sage grouse. Their habitats should be maintained in good to excellent condition so adequate populations will be available for public benefit.

My suggestions on the listed issues and alternatives are as follows:

Comment Letter 25

1. Livestock - Resource protection. Grazing should be reduced and spring grazing deferred. Riparian habitats should be protected. Reduce wild horses so cattle reduction would be less.
2. Wild Horses - Commodity Production. Severely reduce or eliminate wild horses to benefit wildlife and livestock and the range.
3. Wildlife - Resource Protection. Monkeys for 3,801 AUM's or more. Protect 53 or more miles of stream. Actually if habitat is protected and managed for wildlife, eventually livestock AUM's can be increased based on rangeland condition class improvement. Cattle will be in better condition and bring a greater economic return to permittees.
4. Wilderness - select between 150,000 to 175,000 acres
5. Land - Resource Protection. Suppose of only minimal amount. This is public land that belongs to all of us. Do not sell it!

Sincerely,
M. C. Le Flare
1844 Cherry Ln
Fallon, NV 89406

Comment Letter 26

BERNSHAW PHOTOGRAPHY
BOX 299
BLAUNSTONE ALBERTA
T0K 0G0

November 15, 1983

District Manager
BLM
Carson City, Nev.

Dear Sir:

I wish to make a few general statements for your consideration regarding RMP, EIS and WSA's in the Lahontan Resource Area.

- (1) Grazing. You must curb overgrazing. You have every right to set levels for grazing on the public lands, so I urge you to set levels that will restore the range. In addition, you might consider competitive "free-market" bids in establishing a more realistic price for grazing rights.
- (2) Range Improvements. Quit subsidizing improvements with funds beyond what is collected in grazing fees. Charge higher fees, or quit making "major project" improvements.
- (3) Wilderness. Wilderness land is a rare commodity in the lower-48 States. Future generations will appreciate wilderness-protected lands greater in the future than locals appear to now. Only vital other resources should prevent a W.S.A. with high wilderness values from being recommended as such. Please be favorable towards wilderness values.

Yours truly,

Elliott Bernshaw
Elliott Bernshaw
A former resident

Comment Letter 27

District Manager
Garrison City District
1050 E. Williams, Suite 355
Garrison City, Nevada 89701

Dear District Manager:

I urge the establishment of four wilderness areas totaling 852,200 acres. The four additions to the Wilderness System that I recommend are: Glen Alpine Mountains, Millwater Range, Desatoya Mountains, and Bob Peak. I also recommend no land disposal in Erie Valley or Edwards Creek Valley. I lived in Nevada for twenty years. These additions to the Wilderness System are necessary for diversity of the system and their recreational, wildlife, scenic, and primitive values. Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Reef Seward
Reef Seward

Comment Letter 28

Ken Goldsmith
355 Forest Rd
Northford, CT 06472
Nov 26, 1983

Dear Sirs,

Please send me a complete copy of the Lehman Bump & EIS a wilderness Technical Report. Since I may not be able to comment to the complete document before Jan 2, however, I will make a few remarks on the summary.

I strongly urge adoption of the Resource Protection Alternative or modification of the preferred Alternative in two areas. First, all 53 miles of stream should receive increased protection. Riparian areas are the most significant natural features in Nevada and have been heavily damaged by grazing. Second, the key wilderness recommendation in the preferred Alt. is a forestry. All four areas (with possible minor boundary modifications) should receive complete protection. Wilderness will soon become a scarce commodity in Nevada at the present rate of development. These are fragile & unique areas whose designation would enhance, not hurt, the economy of the District. I strongly urge their protection.

Sincerely,
Ken Goldsmith

Comment Letter 29

December 19, 1983

Tom Owen
BLM District Manager
1050 E. Williams St.
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear Sir:

Last spring I had the good fortune of walking in the Desatoya Mountains for two days. Visiting the Desatoyas reinforced my belief that Americans today are truly fortunate in still being able to experience unscared, unlitteed areas much as our forefathers did. With our good fortune though, I feel is an obligation to protect these areas for future generations.

I support all the recommended wilderness areas in your district. I only regret that so many other of Nevada's beautiful areas have been spoiled by the careless, thoughtless few who rape our public lands.

Let us protect those few remaining unspoiled areas by designating them wilderness areas.

With best regards,

Brent Boyer

Brent Boyer
P.O. Box 414
Beno, Nevada 89504

Comment Letter 30

Dec. 28, 1983

Mr. Tom Owen
District Manager, Carson City District
Bureau of Land Management
1050 E. Williams St., Suite 335
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear Mr. Owen:

I have just finished reviewing the Draft Lahontan Resource Management Plan and EIS and would like to state my preference for the Resource Protection Alternative. I think this alternative is much closer to fair multiple use than the Preferred Alternative, which gives too much consideration to exploitative interests and too little to the public's interest at large in seeing other values preserved.

Although I think you could have allowed for a greater increase in wild horse herd numbers, allowing these herds to remain at current levels was certainly much better than cutting them back even more drastically than you have already done and further frustrating their attempts to come to terms with their environment. Although I believe you will find that holding them to this artificially low level is also a frustration of the wild horses' attempts to fill its empty niche on the lands of the Lahontan Resource Area.

In the Preferred Alternative, I was upset that the livestock usage would remain high (64,239 ANU's). I don't think you can realistically keep it at this level and expect the Range to recover. I was also very upset to see that far too little wilderness is being designated --only 26% of that proposed, or 111,554 acres. Since Nevada is a relatively unproductive state where solitude seems inherent, I believe the four Wilderness Areas should be designated in their entirety, as stated in the Resource Protection Alternative. Time has a way of erasing any disturbances, or at least making them acceptable, so that, with adequate protection, these WSU's would regain their wild, natural qualities.

I would prefer seeing 33 miles of stream receiving protection in order to build up vital wildlife habitat for game and non-game species alike, but 30 miles is certainly a positive action.

I hope that you will redo this Plan in order to incorporate more of the decisions as presented in the Resource Protection Alternative. This would be much fairer to all the U.S. public and far wiser land stewardship in the long term.

Sincerely,

Craig D. Downer
Craig D. Downer, M.S.
P.O. Box 456
Minden, Nevada 89425

Comment Letter 31

Elton and Darwin Lambert
423 Route 2
Luray, Virginia 22835

Thomas J. Owen, District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Dept. of the Interior
1050 East William St.
Carson City, Nevada 89701

December 26, 1983

Lahontan Planning

Dear Mr. Owen:

We like your recommendation for wilderness in the remarkably scenic Desaiya Mountains (110/228) between what we think of as the two "routes" of Highway 50 west of Austin—but go on record urging substantial changes in other aspects of your Lahontan resource and environmental planning recently disclosed.

BLM information, as you know, showed 193,120 acres in the Glen Alpine Range (102) with outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined recreation. These mountains and canyons are esthetically pleasing, have much cover including piñon, aspens, mountain mahogany, also wildlife, water, and other appropriate characteristics. We think at least 80% of the acreage should be kept as wilderness.

Similarly, you found outstanding wilderness in the Stillwater Range (104) and, we think, should recommend 40,000 acres or more, including historic places and geologic phenomena such as the unusual earthquake slumpage that we remember vividly since the 1950s. In this same range your Job Peak area (127), with water, wildlife and splendid canyons, where you found at least 91,022 acres outstanding for wilderness values, should in our opinion be represented by a minimum of 50,000 acres.

We're also concerned about features which, though not "wilderness," surely deserve recognition and protection. One of our favorites has always been Sand Mountain. We've walked on and around it on many occasions and photographed it. We consider it an "artist's" masterpiece and know it's also of scientific interest. While parts might be used by off-road vehicles, we personally feel a substantial portion should be protected in as natural a condition as possible. Special plants—surprisingly—grow there, and the use by wild creatures is intriguing. We've enjoyed finding their tracks. We're far from alone in wanting opportunity for study and quiet enjoyment of this great dome, which is outstanding not just in Nevada or in the U.S. but in world perspective.

We're also concerned about petroglyphs, and other archeological remains, in such places as Grass Point and Graves Cliffs and about the historic remains at the old gold town of Tonder. We're similarly worried about other points of historic, biologic, geologic, archeologic, scenic, or other special interest that we're sure you're aware of. Some of these, at least, should be designated fittingly so as not to

Comment Letter 31

Owen
Re: From Lamberts - 12/26/83 - page 2

be later mourned—among other considerations—as lost unnecessarily.

Further—though we've been involved with, and continue keenly interested in, community development, grazing, prospecting and mining on lands held by BLM in Nevada—and don't want Federal actions or lack of actions to hamper these important matters unduly—we feel scientific-recreational-aesthetic interests are equally deserving. We urge you to avoid offering large tracts for sale when the greed of speculators for wealth is the primary push. Please give fresh and careful thought to vast tracts—such as near Farley and Gabbs—that somehow have gotten in line for disposal. Please consider what the citizenry of the United States would lose, or gain, if such sales went through.

Please also let your better judgment continue to prevail over unrealistic notions of would-be or uninformed prospectors that workable deposits of valuable minerals lurk still undiscovered under almost every sagebrush, saltbush, aspen or piñon. It's natural, of course, for humans to "dream" but good judgment must be based on known facts.

We'll be grateful for your careful consideration of this letter. The long-range future of the areas involved is important not just to Nevada and to the BLM but most of all to our whole nation.

Sincerely,

Elton Lambert Darwin Lambert

Elton and Darwin Lambert

Comment Letter 32

- LAHONTAN -

The undersigned are totally opposed to ANY form of Wilderness designation to be made by the BLM within the Lahontan District of Western Nevada.

We appreciate any and all help you can give on our behalf before December 30, 1983.

1. Mr. Story 3295 S. Hig. St. #306 Reno NV 89502
2. Walter H. Long 507 12003 Reno 89503
3. James Coorsman 66 Virginia Ave Reno 89503
4. H. CERVERUX 1583 So Virginia Ave Reno 89503
5. M. Cerveraux 1583 So Virginia Ave Reno 89503
6. James Long 5105 Mountain Sparks 89401
7. John A. Harvey 3485 Nevada Dr Reno NV 89513
8. William D. Bennett 930 Arlington Dr Reno NV 89505
9. Oliver Douglas 14800 Tallah. Rd.
10. John R. Kelley 1316 Bentley Ave Reno NV 89509
11. Frank H. Luskett P.O. Box 1244 Sparks, Nev. 89432
12. Liberty L. Brudler 1945 - 4th St. Sparks NV 89431
13. Paul J. Hale 4604 West Rd Reno NV 89502
14. Paul J. Hale 4604 West Rd Reno NV 89502
15. Paul J. Hale 4360 Riv. Pkwy Reno NV
16. Paul J. Hale 7534 Bluestone Dr Reno NV 89514
17. John M. Arnold 7524 Bluestone Dr Reno NV 89511
18. Angie A. Yelch 1642 Railway Ave Reno NV 89507
19. Alvin M. Hensell P.O. Box 388 Gardnerville Reno NV 89524
20. James R. Stappert 7830 N. Virginia Ave Reno NV 89504
21. Kathleen Carter P.O. Box 177 Reno NV 89505
22. Vester E. Norton III 100 N. Arlington Reno NV 89501
23. John A. E. H. H. H. 1840 Humboldt Sparks NV 89431
24. John A. E. H. H. H. 1840 Humboldt Sparks NV 89431
25. John A. E. H. H. H. 11153 Angus St Sparks NV 89431
26. John A. E. H. H. H. 11153 Angus St Sparks NV 89431
27. William D. Birchall 2565 Meadowlark Dr Reno NV 89506

Response Letter 32

32-1 This petition has a total of seven pages and 157 signatures. Although the number of signatures on a petition does not necessarily give it more weight in the planning process, this petition has been considered in the development of the Proposed Action.

P. LAHONTAN
BLM

Comment Letter 33

District Manager
Carson City District, B.L.M.

Dear Sir:

The following are my comments considering your recommendations for wilderness in the Lahontan Resource Area.

Your current recommendations are totally inadequate in light of the high wilderness values within the resource area.

In this view, I recommend the following:

3) Clan Alpine --- One of the largest blocks in Nevada; the expansive and scenic area is an important watershed and wildlife resource. I recommend that the entire area of 195,128 acres be proposed for wilderness. At the very least, you should recommend the "Mid-Range Mts." proposal of 159,570 acres.

2) Desertaya Range --- This spectacular range is an outstanding candidate for wilderness status. It's wild, rugged, unspoiled, and scenic splendor deserve full protection. I recommend that all 51,622 acres be recommended for wilderness. I compliment you on your "prudent alternative" recommendation, however, that 73,045 acres proposal is not large enough.

3) Job's Peak --- I'm very disappointed by your failure to recommend this area for wilderness. There are very high recreation and wildlife values in the area. I recommend that the entire 90,208 acres be proposed for wilderness.

4) Stillwater --- Again, it is unfortunate that you did not propose at least part of the area for wilderness. This rugged area deserves a wilderness recommendation for the entire 97,607 acre area.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Best Regards
Christopher R.
Nevada Wilderness Assoc.

Comment Letter 34

December 30, 1983

TO: Thomas J. Owen, District Manager
B2N-Lahontan Resource Area

Dear Mr. Owen,

This letter is to convey to yourself and the staff of your office my views concerning the Draft Environmental Impact Statement issued for the Lahontan Resource Area. It is my understanding that letters such as these are not necessarily read for content but rather tallied as for this or against that; therefore I will keep my comments very brief.

It is my feeling that as our species evolves into one which may no longer act with anthropic arrogance towards the other components of our planet, both the biotic and non-living, we must recognize that we can no longer designate an area for pleasure or for economic gains only. I could state that I would like the four areas that your office is considering for wilderness protection set aside so that I may be able to backpack through them someday, undisturbed. However that would be arrogant of myself as a human to state that as my only reason to protect these areas. Rather, I feel that the fullest protection must be afforded these four areas for the ecosystems which they still support. We must go beyond the fulfillment of human wants and set aside these areas for ALL who use a land visit them.

Hence, I request that your office recommend that the Clan Alpine # NW-030-102, the Stillwaters # NW-030-104, the Desertaya # NW-030-110, and Job Peak # NW-030-127 be approved for "Wilderness" designation to the outermost boundaries of the Wilderness study areas. I could also state that more should be included for each one, but time does not allow me to become specific. I duly submit my comments with the fullest sincerity.

Yours Truly,

Thomas Murarik
P.O. Box 13599
Reno, NV 89507

Comment Letter 35

2955 Berkshire
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118
December 29, 1983

Mr. Thomas J. Owen
District Manager
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
1050 East William Street, Suite 335
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear Mr. Owen,

Please include in the official record of public comment on Lahontan Resource Area WSAs the following concerns and supporting documentation.

I feel that I am uniquely qualified to comment on the issue of wilderness in northern Nevada as I am a member of every responding special interest group except ranching. I am a professional geologist with work experience with the U.S.G.S. (field mapping); Hanna Mining (base and precious metal exploration); Humble Oil and Refining Co., now Exxon, (geophysics). I have also been president of my own mining company, Phoenix Mineral and Mining Associates, for ten years. That company successfully carried out precious opal mining operations at Virgin Valley, Humboldt Co., Nevada, for two years as well as base and precious metal exploration and property evaluation in Nevada, Alaska, and elsewhere. During the opal mining operation we had the largest mining operation in Humboldt County according to the Nevada Bureau of Mines. I feel that I am familiar with much of northern Nevada because of these activities.

Presently I am Curator of Mineralogy at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History and consider myself a conservationist. I also do considerable field collecting of rocks and minerals and am deeply involved with regional and national rockhound organizations. I have two bad knees which prohibit extensive field work so I cherish my ability to drive my car like an ORV into the most outlandish areas. (I've gone farther than some motorcycles and pulled jeeps out of bogs). I am an Eagle Scout (1958) and have enjoyed primitive camping in the West since 1956.

Response Letter 35

A thirty-four page letter (including addenda) was received from Mr. Paul C. Clifford, Jr. of 2955 Berkshire Street, Cleveland Heights, Ohio, who is employed as Curator of Mineralogy at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Due to prohibitive printing costs only the title and signature pages and excerpts containing substantive comments, rather than the entire letter, have been included in this document pursuant to Council on Environmental Quality Regulation (40 CFR 1503.4(b)). Those excerpts follow.

The entire letter is available for review at the Carson City District Office, 1535 Hot Springs Road, Suite 300, Carson City, NV 89701.

Comment Letter 35

Mr. Thomas J. Owen

December 29, 1983

Page 17

vandalism. Therefore there is no economic impact to capital value of grazing allotments due to wilderness designation in these WSAs.

The Preferred Alternative and the Mid Range Alternative are identical for the issues of range management and lands. They differ markedly for wilderness and the very minor secondary economic consequences of designating varying acreages of wilderness. The Mid Range Alternative proposes that 268,874 acres in 4 WSAs or 62% be recommended for designation as wilderness. The Preferred Alternative without analysis or justification reduces this acreage to 111,554 acres or 26%. I strongly favor the Mid Range Alternative as a reasonable compromise of all issues in conflict regarding the use of resources, including wilderness. The attached appendices set forth the reasons why the Mid Range, with minor amendments, is in fact the much preferred alternative.

Finally, I would like to especially thank those who prepared the Wilderness Technical Report and Environmental Impact Statement. They have provided concerned persons of all persuasions with most of the facts with which to make informed comment. It is deeply appreciated. I hope that my comments are received by them as an extension of the same theme -- that all of us are trying to find the most suitable use for some unique lands that we all cherish. I would like to receive any comments from BLM or others regarding this comment. I also wish to be kept informed of all matters relating to BLM actions on wilderness in the Carson City District.

Sincerely,



Paul C. Clifford

Comment Letter 35

35-1 It is also my understanding that decisions in California RARE II disputes as applied to WSAs and Interior Board of Land Appeals decisions in Utah mandate that only man generated imprints arising within a WSA are to be considered. Imprints such as noise and view impairment arising outside the area are not to be considered. Minor imprints such as range improvements do not disqualify an area.

35-2 P.3.4 - As BLM chose to include the wilderness considerations with the RMP they must still justify (document) why the preferred alternative is better, particularly since it is so different from the Mid Range alternative.

35-3 BLM is required at present to manage all WSAs to preserve wilderness values under existing DMEs. Management is an active endeavor according to my dictionary and involves manipulation to achieve the desired goals. Removing all substantial parts of a WSA based on potential illegal vehicle trespass on a scale so trivial as described above is not management of wilderness but active abetting of the destruction of it which is forbidden by the DME. As such, these reductions in size are themselves illegal except in areas of overwhelming impact. These exceptions are very, very rare in the 4 WSAs.

Response Letter 35

35-1 During the Wilderness Intensive Inventory the effect which outside sights and sounds may have upon wilderness characteristics inside an inventory unit was not to be considered.

The Wilderness Study Policy clearly states, however, that outside sights and sounds "... may be taken into account in assessing the quality of an area's naturalness or its opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation". (Federal Register, Vol. 47, No. 23, p. 5105)

35-2 The Wilderness Intensive Inventory identified those areas which had the mandatory wilderness characteristics of size, naturalness and outstanding opportunities for either solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation. The determination of an area's suitability or unsuitability for designation as wilderness was to be made as a result of the wilderness study process.

Development of the Proposed Action for the wilderness issue was done in compliance with the Bureau's Wilderness Study Policy, and all pertinent regulations and instruction memorandums. This included a thorough consideration of the quality of each area's wilderness characteristics, the manageability of the area, and existing and potential resource conflicts.

35-3 Manageability of each WSA was carefully assessed in the Lahontan Wilderness Technical Report. The potential for off-road vehicle management problems was only one of several concerns addressed in that section of the report and was never used as the sole reason to eliminate a portion of an area from further wilderness consideration.

Comment Letter 35

35-4

BIM evaluations apparently rely heavily on the "GEM" Report for their technical base, although this is never clearly stated. There is no summary of methodology or findings of the report nor is it included in the WTR or EIS even "by reference". In fact, only the most tantalizing tidbits are excerpted from the GEM report. There is not even a statement that the standard BIM "Potential and Confidence Scheme" (Table II) is the basis for terminology of potential and confidence. I can only assume that it is.

As the WTR and EIS apparently rely heavily on the GEM report, respondents like myself have been deliberately denied the data necessary to evaluate either the GEM report or its interpretation by BIM. The "analysis" given in the WTR and EIS is actually unsubstantiated opinion (from the point of view of one evaluating the WTR or EIS). As a result I cannot accept as valid any of the claims of high or moderate mineral or geochemical evaluations, based on evidence presented in the WTR or EIS. For all practical purposes no data is given. We must therefore rely totally on the USGS and USNM evaluations which have not yet been done.

Response Letter 35

35-4 The evaluation of energy and mineral potential found in the RMP and Wilderness Technical Report (WTR) is based largely on the findings of the GEM Resource Area Technical Reports prepared by Great Basin GEM Joint Venture. These reports were prepared under BIM contract to provide a basis for recommendations on geology, energy, and mineral issues. Frequent reference to these reports in the RMP and WTR reflect their intended use. References have been added to statements about mineral potential. Please refer to the revisions and errata section of the Final RMP.

An explanation of methodology and a summary of findings for reference material is not customarily included in the text of a technical report, therefore, this information on the GEM Reports was purposely omitted. The public is invited to review and copy these documents which are available at the BIM Denver Service Center, BIM Nevada State Office, Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology, and the BIM Carson City District Office.

Comment Letter 35

35-5

The "evaluations" provided in the WTR and EIS are very general and do not relate to specific verifiable areas. They are therefore not "site specific", again making it impossible to evaluate their accuracy or suitability on a site specific basis. As a result the "Energy and Mineral Resource Values (Quality Standard 1)" has not been "fully considered and documented" in determining whether a WSA is more suitable for wilderness or for other uses and in making all BLM wilderness recommendations, both "suitable" and "unsuitable" (EIS p. 7-28, emphasis added). The EIS is therefore severely if not fatally flawed as regards the matter of wilderness because the Wilderness Study Policy and Planning Criteria have not been met.

35-6

In almost every instance the ratings and confidence levels as interpreted from the GEM report appear to be highly inflated. It is unclear to me if they assigned the potential and confidence levels or if these were done by BLM. In any event, the problem is in the delineation of expectations associated with the moderate and high categories of potential. These I am sure were supplied by BLM. As I interpret the EIS, the BLM would have the reader believe that the moderate level of potential has at least a 50% chance of producing a quite significant amount of ore, say some millions of dollars profit, at least. The high potential is held to be essentially a surety of producing a high tangible monetary return. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The use of the terms low, medium and high potential with regard to any likelihood for the production of ore at a profit has been completely misapplied in the EIS. The classification and confidence scheme used by BLM is workable if the proper data is used. Such proper data was neither supplied nor applied to support this scheme at the moderate or high levels for mineral potential or confidence proposed in either the Technical Report or the EIS.

Response Letter 35

35-5 The energy and mineral evaluations in the GEM reports relied on a wide range of existing data, some specific, some general. Analysis of this data resulted in the delineation of areas of mineral potential at varying degrees of confidence. The confidence scheme reflects the quantity and quality of data available. These areas are discrete, identifiable map units well documented in the WTR and/or GEM reports. The data and analysis which established these areas is verifiable.

35-6 The low, medium, and high ratings refer to the favorability for the accumulation of mineral resources. There is no quantifiable connection between this rating and the value of the mineral resource present.

Comment Letter 35

35-7 P.8 - Geochemical and geophysical anomalies may be considered together. I know of no geophysical prospecting work which has been done for minerals as opposed to energy values on a site specific scale. No data is presented in the reports.

35-8 P.10 - A high value anomaly in a geochemical survey is definitely worth a look but does not translate into even a "moderate favorability for the accumulation of resources." To state that it does is a gross inflation of the real potential of an area to actually produce mineral wealth.

35-9 There must be another option in the potential classification scheme. Number 2 states that "the geologic environment and inferred geologic processes have a low favorability for accumulation of mineral resources." Number 3 states the "the geologic environment, the inferred geologic processes, the reported mineral occurrences and the geochemical and geophysical anomalies indicate moderate favorability for accumulation of mineral resources." There is an absolute necessity for a classification between the two (here called "2A") stating "the geologic environment and the inferred geologic processes are generally favorable for the accumulation of mineral resources, but the verifiable reported mineral occurrences, the geochemical and geophysical anomalies, do not indicate that economically exploitable accumulations of mineral resources have occurred."

Response Letter 35

35-7 The use of existing geophysical work in the GEM analysis was encouraged. However, when the information was not available, the contractor was not required to perform independent surveys.

35-8 The presence of geochemical anomalies and other geologic indicia were used to rate a portion of the Dusatoya Mountains NSA as moderately favorable for the accumulation of metallic minerals. Nowhere was a moderate geochemical anomaly related directly to a moderate favorability rating.

35-9 Though not specifically stated in the classification scheme the absence of a geochemical or geophysical anomaly is considered under level 1 and 2.

Comment Letter 35

35-10

Oil and gas potential is bimodal in the Lahontan WSAs. There is valley fill, and various portions of all four WSAs centered on mountain masses. The geologic history of the region essentially precludes economic concentrations of oil and gas in the mountain masses. The conditions above are simply not met. The mountain masses do not end at the topographic break in slope we now observe, but rather they are bounded by faults which may be some distance, often a mile or more toward the valley from the topographic break in slope. This means that the valley edges generally belong to the geologic province of the mountains and hence have a very low potential for oil or gas production.

The fact that these areas are leased for oil and gas has no significance except to show that the government is very shrewd about such leases. Leases pay a set fee by the acre for the entire lease whether or not particular areas within the lease have high or low potential. Often as much land of low or no potential is added to a lease as the traffic will bear. This happens under the guise of keeping neat boundaries, like township lines, etc. If you want the good you take the bad as well. This has two profitable effects from the government's point of view. First, otherwise unleaseable land is leased at the same rate as higher potential land. Second, more allotments of the same general size can be leased. Both of these make the lessor (BLM) look very good. The oil and gas leases in all of the WSAs essentially fall into this category and should not be considered further.

Response Letter 35

35-10 The number of leases and total acreage under oil and gas leases in each WSA was included in the Technical Report in order to accurately show the current situation in these areas with regard to this activity. The mineral potential map and the discussion of the mineral potential for each WSA assesses the potential for actually locating these resources under the lands in question. With the exception of some areas with moderate potential along the alluvial fans in the Job Peak WSA, the remainder of the four areas are believed to have little if any oil and gas potential. This was taken into consideration in the development of the Proposed Action.

Comment Letter 35

35-11

P.15 - The EIS implies a great adverse economic impact due to wilderness designation due to withdrawal of NSAs from mineral entry. This is totally unwarranted. No larger mines employing a number of people are anticipated in any NSA since overall projections are that there would be no significant changes in area or local economies whether designated wilderness or not. One cannot claim an economic loss or a potential resource that has not been identified, quantified, or even staked with a mineral claim.

35-12

Wilderness designation is said by the EIS to adversely impact capital value of grazing allotments due to increased costs in those areas of 7 cents per AUM based on a USDI survey in Oregon. These figures are not applicable in the Lahontan RA because the Oregon study presumed 1) that all service to livestock and range improvements were done by vehicle prior to designation; 2) that all such service after designation was done by horseback or on foot. These conditions are not met in the 4 NSAs. In the Mid Range alternative permits are specifically allowed to service range improvements by use of roads or ways closed to the public. Virtually all range improvements in the NSAs are adjacent to such access. The remainder of the areas is essentially not suitable for vehicular use before or after designation. As a result the presumed increase is vanishingly small and may well be offset by a reduction in vandalism. Therefore there is no economic impact to capital value of grazing allotments due to wilderness designation in these NSAs.

Response Letter 35

35-11

The science of economics deals extensively with the subject of opportunity costs. One of the opportunity costs of wilderness designation is a reduced potential for mineral development. The Draft RMP/EIS correctly identifies this as an economic impact.

35-12

Neither Alternative B (formerly the Mid-Range alternative) nor any other alternative specifically allows permittees to service range improvements by use of roads and ways closed to the public. Should an area be designated wilderness, all ways would be closed and all roads would remain open.

Recommendations were made in the Lahontan Wilderness Technical Report that the use of certain roads be restricted to the permittees, landowners who require access to private inholdings and the BLM for administrative purposes. These are only recommendations and would be addressed in detail at the time a management plan is developed for a designated wilderness area.

The Oregon study was used in compliance with Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR 1502.22) which require a worst case analysis when data is incomplete or unavailable. It should be noted that despite the use of a worst case analysis the greatest potential reduction in grazing permit value would amount to only two percent.

Comment Letter 35

35-13

No active mines of significance are located within the WSA. Exploration areas in Bernice/Hoyt Canyon, Dyer Canyon, Tungsten Mountain and Florence Canyon have been separated in the WSA which is correct. The use of the term deposit for the occurrences of metallic minerals known in the WSA is unwarranted. A deposit implies ore which can be produced at or near a profit. No such ore is known in the WSA. Potential for development within the WSA as modified in the WSA is not good as stated in the WTR (p. 32) but only fair and then in areas on the periphery of the WSA where impact would not be severe for core wilderness values. Only about 600 acres of "high" metallic potential remain in the WSA suggested area mostly immediately east of Hoyt Canyon area. No documentation is provided in the EIS to substantiate the claim that the remainder of the area has "moderate" potential on even a general area let alone site specific basis. A "moderate" rating is not warranted. A rating of "2A"-B is appropriate generally favorable geology - no supporting evidence from occurrences or surveys - low confidence due to lack of data.

35-14

There are no resource conflicts in the WSA which would justify a reduction in acreage. The greatest is a weak geochemical anomaly in the Cedar Creek-Topia Creek area. A follow-up survey confirmed the weak anomaly. This weak anomaly is the only reason for withdrawing approximately 8200 acres in this area. A potential for the profitable extraction of mineral wealth is not indicated by this type of anomaly and does not justify the exclusion of this acreage (see general comments). The area should be restored and W-10, W-11 closed.

Response Letter 35

35-13 The use of the words mineral deposit is made in accordance with the definition found in the American Geological Institute "Glossary of Geology": Mineral deposit: a mass of naturally occurring mineral material, e.g. metal ores or nonmetallic minerals, usually of economic value.

The WTR does not describe the mineral potential of each alternative, therefore, the statement made regarding the potential for development is accurate as it relates to Alternative A (formerly the All Wilderness alternative).

The documentation for the moderate rating is found within the Clan Alpine Mountains GEM Resource Area Technical Report (GSA - No. NW-05). This rating is predicated on: 1) proximity to known mineral deposits (areas classified 4D); 2) similar geologic environment as the known mineral deposits; 3) intrusive activity; 4) abundant mining claims; and 5) structurally complex.

35-14 Both the geochemical anomaly and the structural setting were cited in the GEM Report as a basis for the moderate rating.

The weak anomaly, combined with the existence of W-10 and W-11, private inholdings along R-12, range improvements in the immediate area and potential manageability problems, were the reasons 8200 acres in the northeast part of the unit were deleted. This anomaly was only one of several factors which contributed to the decision to delete this portion of the WSA from further wilderness consideration.

Comment Letter 35

35-15

The portion of the NSA immediately around Poco and West Job Canyon has a moderate metallic mineral potential. The remainder of the NSA has a "2A"-B classification, i.e., generally favorable geology - occurrences and studies do not indicate a commercial accumulation of minerals - low confidence due to lack of data; not moderate as stated in WCR.

Response Letter 35

35-15 The moderate rating was based on the following as reported in the CRF reports:

1. These volcanics are younger than the known mineralization to the north in the Stillwaters. Therefore the nature of the underlying mineral potential should be based on exposures where these volcanics are eroded away.
2. Mineralization is found in the underlying Mesozoics to both the north and south.
3. The presence of intrusive granitic rocks which are known to be associated with mineralization to the north in the T.K.L. district is significant. At depth where this intrusive is in contact with the underlying Mesozoic rocks there may be some depositionally favorable horizons that have been mineralized.
4. There are abundant mining claims in this classification area. Anasconda alone has approximately 250 claims in the volcanics of this classification area, the majority of which are within the NSA. The claims were staked on precious metal-bearing veins with wide zones of epithermal alteration. Sulfide mineralization associated with intrusives also reportedly occurs in this area (Delong, 1983).

Comment Letter 36

628 Lake Street
Reno, NV 89501

Tom Owen, District Manager
1050 E. Williams St.
Carson City, NV. 89701

Dear Mr. Owen:

I am writing to let you know of my concerned support of the Clan Alpine, the Desatoya Range, the Stillwater Wilderness Study Alternative and Job's Peak areas as deserving and in need of wilderness status for protection in a natural state.

In the Clan Alpine I endorse the Midrange Alternative of 150,000 acres which includes Mt. Augusta and excludes roads and mining activity to be found around the edges. I think this area is particularly deserving due to the archaeological interest there.

The Desatoya Range is an area I have personally enjoyed for its lower elevation (it's accessible before other areas in the Spring when cabin fever is greatest). It's craggy offer a desert experience with rock formations and a spectacular waterfall and its high country offers a more alpine environment. This area is greatly deserving of wilderness status and protection.

I am distressed that the Job's Peak area was not recommended by BLM under its Preferred Alternative for this WSA as a wilderness. It is a favorite for hikers and rock climbers alike. While I've not been able to make it up the peak from the valley floor, I did approach the peak from the back side and find the ruggedness and solitude of the area outstanding. This area together with the Stillwater WSA in the northern part of the Stillwaters should be given high priority as they are relatively close to large population centers (Reno and Lake Tahoe) and could take some pressure off the overrun Desolation Wilderness. These high areas should be preserved particularly the heart of the midrange areas as recommended by more knowledgeable conservationists. Multiple use can apply to the peripheral areas while keeping the most spectacular and primitive lands in a more natural state.

I realize difficult decisions and compromises must be made, but please err on the side of preserving too much. It's so much easier to undo preservation than it is to undo development. As a psychologist I believe there is a tangible decrease in the quality of life with the loss of lands such as these. The public needs healthy, natural unscarred land much more than mines, resorts, or suburbs. Land that can't support deer, bear and other wildlife won't support us either, sooner or later.

Sincerely,
Edward P. Galantowicz, Jr.
Edward P. Galantowicz, Jr.

Comment Letter 37

Dear Sirs,
I am writing concerning the Wilderness Study Areas in the Lahontan Resource Area. I feel that Wilderness designation is an important step in preserving the heritage of wilderness which I feel Nevada has. I feel that the BLM's preferred alternative, where 111,554 acres in 2 wilderness study areas would be recommended for Wilderness, is inadequate. With there being 2.4 million acres in the Lahontan Resource Area, 111,554 acres is seen to be a fairly insignificant chunk of land, particularly when there are two deserving areas which have been left out entirely. I have personally been to the Job's Peak study area. In my travels in the Box canyons on the eastern side of the Stillwaters I felt the Wilderness values were by no means questionable - I found myself in twisting, rugged canyons which were of outstanding wilderness value. Likewise, a ridge walk to the top of Job's Peak was nothing less than outstanding in its wilderness values. Furthermore, I find it difficult to believe there would be any "management problems" in the land on the eastern slopes of Job's Peak.

I have also travelled in the Clan Alpine Mts. and the Desatoya Mts. Both of these places provided outstanding wilderness experiences.

I would like to support the Conservationists Alternative of 290,500 acres. From all 4 areas being recommended for Wilderness. I feel this acreage, only 12% of the Resource Area would preserve an adequate amount of land while at the same time allowing for many other activities which are part of Nevada's heritage also to occur on the remaining 88% of the land.

Thank You
Courtney Smith
Courtney Smith
1730 O'Farrell St.
O'Farrell, NV

Comment Letter 38

6200 Macomber # 574
Long, NV 89502
12-9-83

Tom Owen
District Manager
1050 E. Williams St
Carson, City, NV. 89701

Dear Tom,

I attended a recent wilderness public hearing, and, although I did not speak at the hearing, I wish to express my backing for the following wilderness areas:

Olden Alpines, 159,500 AC, Conservationists alternative

Desatoya Range, 43,045 AC, ALM preferred alternative

Lob's Peak, ~50,000 AC

Sillwater WSA, ~40,000 AC, Nishange Alternative

I believe the above acreages total about 11 or 12% of the total acreage of the Lahontan Resource Area. Certainly this is a reasonable amount to set aside for wilderness area. Having

Comment Letter 38

spent much time in the Desatoya Range, I found the area to be unique with its black-walled canyons, gushing waterfalls, and spectacular beauty.

The Olden Alpines house an array of archeological sites and spectacular rock formations. Although less familiar with this area, I hope to spend a greater amount of time there this spring.

Now, I am alarmed the the apparent neglect for not including Lob's Peak in the ALM preferred alternative. This rugged region, with its abundant wildlife should certainly be included.

People are now beginning to truly enjoy Nevada's wilderness as they find new interests in fitness and the outdoors. We must set aside areas, such as these, to fill the needs of our people.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Duerr

Comment Letter 39

Barbara Kelley
1850 Van Ness Ave.
Reno, NV. 89503

December 11, 1983

Tom Owen, District Manager
Lahontan Resource Area
1050 E. Williams St.
Carson City, NV. 89701

Dear Mr. Owen,

After a review of your draft EIS for the Lahontan Resource Area, I am appalled that your Preferred Alternative for Wilderness Designation is so extremely inadequate. There are four areas in your area that merit wilderness designation on the basis of solitude and outstanding primitive recreational opportunities. Specifically, I endorse the following alternatives.

In the Clan Alpine Range, I support the Midrange Alternative of 150,500 acres. The streams, wildlife, beautiful rock formations and archeological sites are outstanding in this area. Conflicts are nonexistent as this alternative excludes mining interests. This is a spectacular region that will draw many visitors to Nevada and will be a most worthwhile addition to the National Wilderness System.

I do support BLM's Preferred Alternative for the Desatoya Range, 43,045 acres. This is a prime wilderness area with Big Den Canyon and other canyons, as well as wildlife and opportunities for quality outdoor recreation.

I cannot understand the BLM's failure to recommend Job's Peak area for wilderness. Not only is this a bighorn sheep area, but it is well known for rock climbing, skiing and other wilderness uses. I support 50,000 acres or so as wilderness and will be disappointed if the area is not so designated.

Finally, the BLM has also failed to recommend the Stillwater WSA. I support the Midrange Alternative of about 30,000 acres PLUS an additional 10,000 acres; a total of 40,000 acres of wilderness would be barely adequate for this beautiful region with great wilderness value.

Comment Letter 39

This total of roughly 290,800 acres is still only 12% of the Lahontan Resource Area. This is barely a reasonable balance in managing the land for multiple use, but would be acceptable to me.

Sincerely,

Barbara Kelley
Barbara Kelley

Comment Letter 40

2252 Soda Lake Road
Fallon, Nv 89406
December 7, 1983

District Manager, BLM
Carson City District
1050 E. Williams St
Carson City, Nv 89701

RE: Desatoya Mts WSA
Nv-030-110/060-280

Dear Mr. Owen:

Regarding the Desatoya WSA, I wish to add my support to the BLM's Preferred Alternative of 43,045 acres.

The rock formations and canyons are spectacular and the surprise of finding a large, beautiful waterfall in a desert mountain range is most delightful. And it does have beautiful high country with fine views.

In addition to all the other values of this area, I feel that the Basque carvings on aspen trees (not only this area but others as well) deserve more than just a passing thought. It is difficult to prevent vandalism and tree life is limited, however protection should be emphasized as it is with petroglyphs and other antiquities. Inclusion of such trees, where possible, in designated wilderness areas might aid in their protection and prolong their life.

Yours very truly,


Carola P. Hutchinson

Comment Letter 40

2252 Soda Lake Road
Fallon, Nv 89406
December 7, 1983

Tom Owen
District Manager, BLM
Carson City District
1050 E. Williams St
Carson City, Nv 89701

Glen Alpine Mtns WSA
Nv-030-102

Dear Mr. Owen:

Although I have not spent as much time in this area as in some of the others, its proximity to population centers is important.

It is relatively high, has numerous springs, and appears to offer good opportunities for distance hiking and backpacking in addition to day hiking.

I support the BLM Midrange Alternative of 150,500 acres.

Yours truly,


Carola P. Hutchinson

Comment Letter 40

2252 Soda Lake Road
Fallon, NV 89406
December 5, 1983

District Manager, B.L.M.
Carson City District
1050 E. Williams St.
Carson City, NV 89701

Re: 1790 (NV-035)
JOB PEAK WSA

Dear Sir:

This letter is written for inclusion in the record for Wilderness consideration of the Job Peak area.

Over the past twelve years I have spent considerable time hiking, exploring, photographing and camping in this area. I have thoroughly enjoyed observing undisturbed wildlife, the finding of a possible archeological site, being challenged by unpredictable weather, following mountain lion tracks in the snow, and seeing artifacts of past activities. The solitude is outstanding except for occasional aircraft, which unfortunately is expected to increase.

The fact that this area is so close makes it particularly attractive. It appears, from the people I've talked to, that many of them would like to visit this range if they only knew how to get into it.

I must disagree with the Lahontan Wilderness Technical Report summary that states that visitor use would likely be concentrated between Job Peak and Shaley Peak. JOB PEAK is a great area. The views are tremendous. One gets the euphoric feeling of being safely on top of the world! The extension of Shirltail Canyon beyond the road is very nice, as are the spring areas of North and South Lee Canyon. The area north of Job Peak to Little Box Canyon - the area inhabited by the bighorn sheep, along with deer, mountain lion and bobcat, most emphatically needs protection (if for no other reason than to protect the public's investment in the establishment of the bighorn).

Also, the canyons on the west side beyond the roads are quite interesting, specifically the south and north forks of Long Canyon, Pete Canyon and Poco Canyon. In one of these canyons I found a thriving piñon pine that is by far, the largest piñon I have seen in the state.

After careful study of the Lahontan Wilderness Report and correlated with my own observations, I would urge consideration of approximately 50,000 acres for Wilderness protection.

Considering the anticipated population growth of this area, now is the time for far-sighted action.

Yours/very truly,

Carol P. Hutchinson
Carol P. Hutchinson

Comment Letter 41

Tom Owens, District Manager
1550 E. Williams St.
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear Mr. Owens,

As a resident of Nevada
concerned about the preservation of
Nevada's beautiful wilderness areas,
I should like to voice my support
for the wilderness areas within
the Lahontan Reserve Area.

I support and highly recommend
BLM for the decision to include the
43,045 acre Shoshone Range in
the "Preferred Wilderness". I also
support inclusion of the Clear Lake area,
but would like to endorse the
Mojave Wilderness which extends
the acreage to 150,000. It would
also include Mount Argus and
Yarnai, unpopulated unexcited habitat.

Comment Letter 41

Lastly, I would like to see included Job's Park, a 49,000 acre site, which would be a priceless addition to the wilderness system because of its solitude and ruggedness. Bighorn Sheep have been re-introduced in this area and would benefit by wilderness designation of this area. Furthermore, Stillwater WMA in the northern portion of Stillwater Mountains should be added to BLM's Preferred Alternative Recommendations. Recommended are approximately 40,000 acres which includes the backbone of the sheep range - a wonderful addition to our wilderness system.

Thank you.

Yours Sincerely,
Roy Adams Smith

Comment Letter 42

December 20, 1983

DEAR MR. OWEN,

PLEASE SUPPORT THE CONSERVATION'S ALTERNATIVE IN THE LATHAMTON RESOURCE AREA, WHICH INCLUDES THE CLAN ASPENS MIDRANGE OF 150,000 ACRES, THE OREAROTA RANGE OF 43,045 ACRES, JOB'S PARK IN THE SOUTHERN STILLWATER MTS. OF 37,000 PLUS THE 11,300 OF THE U.S.A. AND THE TOTAL 240,500 ACRES WHICH IS ONLY 12 PERCENT OF THE 2.4 million ACRE LATHAMTON RESOURCE AREA FOR WILDERNESS DESIGNATION. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

Sincerely,

Steve Shaw
Box 2783
SMTCLINE NSDAO,
89449

Comment Letter 43

720 Brookfield Drive
Reno, Nevada 89503
December 17, 1983

Tom Owen, District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
1050 E. Williams St.
Carson City, NV 89701

Dear Tom:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Lahontan Resource Area Draft EIS and Wilderness Recommendations. Unfortunately, the wilderness recommendations in your preferred alternative are extremely inadequate and actually represent less acreage than in the Midrange Alternative. Because each of the four WSA's has outstanding wilderness values, it is difficult to understand the basis of the BLM recommendations.

Since I moved to Nevada 24 years ago, I have been hiking in these areas and consider each of them outstanding. Only in the beautiful Beatty Range has the BLM recognized the superb values which exist. I agree entirely with your recommendation here and consider this area one of the jewels of Nevada wilderness.

However, each of the other three areas is also unique and highly important. The Clan Alpines are a large mountain range with perennial streams, spectacular rock formations, and many archeological sites, most of which have not yet been studied. At least 150,000 acres, as recommended in the Midrange Alternative, qualifies for wilderness. This is one of the largest WSA's to be found in Nevada, and it will add greatly to the National Wilderness System.

The Jobs Peak-Stillwater complex has been a favorite of rock-climbers and hikers for many years, and your total lack of recognition of the primitive recreational values here has me totally baffled. I recently led a hiking trip into Government Canyon, west of Job's Peak itself, and everyone on the trip was impressed by the springs, the bird life, and the beautiful cliffs. There were over 20 people on the trip and hundreds of photographs were taken. Not to recommend acreage in the Stillwater Mountains would be an enormous mistake on the part of the Carson District. Approximately 49,000 acres in the Job's Peak WSA and 40,000 acres in the Stillwater WSA could be recommended, and most of the mining activity and cherry-stem roads, as well as other resource conflicts would be excluded. Wilderness status would also help to protect the recently introduced bighorn sheep.

Comment Letter 43

Tom Owen
12/17/83. Page 2.

The Carson City District must understand that wilderness is an important resource and not one to be tossed aside lightly. It is a resource for all of the people of the United States and for generations to come. Trading off wilderness for some ephemeral, exploitive activity is extremely short-sighted. I therefore request that you reconsider your recommendations carefully, taking into account the true value of wilderness and the scarcity of high desert wilderness in our national wilderness system.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Sill
Marjorie Sill

Comment Letter 44

December 27, 1983

Tom Owen, District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
1050 E. Williams St.
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear Mr. Owen:

As a long-time citizen of Nevada, I feel it is my right and duty to voice my full support for the proposed wilderness areas in your district. The wilderness area concept is a far-sighted, intelligent one guaranteeing the existence of unspoiled land, air and water for all citizens and their posterity to enjoy and treasure now and forever. In addition, I give my full support to the Conservationist's Alternative which includes the following:

- 1) Glen Alpine (Midrange Alternative of 150,000 acres)
- 2) Desatoye Range (Preferred Alternative of 43,045 acres)
- 3) Job's Peak (49,000 acres; 37,000 acres of the Midrange plus 11,500 acres in the heart of the WSA)
- 4) Stillwater WSA (Midrange Alternatives of 40,000 acres)

The Conservationist's Alternative recommends all four areas be given wilderness status. This recommendation includes approximately 290,500 acres comprising 12% of the 2.4 million acre Lahontan Resource Area.

Sincerely,

Betty C. Benton
1628 Royal Dr
Reno, NV 89503

Comment Letter 45

December 27, 1983

Tom Owen, District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
1050 E. Williams St.
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear Mr. Owen:

As a long-time citizen of Nevada, I feel it is my right and duty to voice my full support for the proposed wilderness areas in your district. The wilderness area concept is a far-sighted, intelligent one guaranteeing the existence of unspoiled land, air and water for all citizens and their posterity to enjoy and treasure now and forever. In addition, I give my full support to the Conservationist's Alternative which includes the following:

- 1) Glen Alpine (Midrange Alternative of 150,000 acres)
- 2) Desatoye Range (Preferred Alternative of 43,045 acres)
- 3) Job's Peak (49,000 acres; 37,000 acres of the Midrange plus 11,500 acres in the heart of the WSA)
- 4) Stillwater WSA (Midrange Alternatives of 40,000 acres)

The Conservationist's Alternative recommends all four areas be given wilderness status. This recommendation includes approximately 290,500 acres comprising 12% of the 2.4 million acre Lahontan Resource Area.

Sincerely,

Betty Q. King
1218 Patrick Ave,
Reno, NV,

Comment Letter 46

1835 Becky Court
Reno, NV. 89503

Tom Owen, District Manager
1050 E. Williams St.
Carson City, NV 89701

Dear Mr. Owen:

I am writing in support of the following four areas being selected for wilderness status. The Clan Alpine should be selected which includes majestic Mt. Augusta and its prime wildlife range. There are perennial streams, spectacular rock formations and an unstudied archaeological site. I spent time with the workers at the Jefferson site last summer and am excited about what can be learned not only about Nevada's primitives but about historical climatic conditions, wildlife and range from studying such sites. The area I wish to highly endorse is the midrange alternative of 150,500 acres; this excludes roads and mining activity found on the periphery.

The beautiful Desatoya Range should also be included. I have backpacked here when the higher ranges had too much snow and run-off damage to afford safe recreation. I have enjoyed very amateur rock climbing in the canyons and thought the waterfall in Big Den was quite spectacular. I was also lucky enough to surprise and spotted fawn while hiking and got an excellent photograph. The recreational advantages of this area are numerous and I consider this area very special and in need of preservation.

The Job's Peak in the southern Stillwater Mountains and the Stillwater Wilderness Study Area in the northern part of the Stillwaters should also be included as wilderness. I do not understand why the BLM has failed to recommend wilderness under its Preferred Alternative for this area. The wildlife and primitive recreational values for this area are extremely high. Bighorn Sheep have been reintroduced and the Peak has long been a favorite of rock climbers and hikers as it offers ruggedness and solitude not found readily. Please consider a minimum of 40,000 acres in the midrange and periphery of this range. While not as high as Job's Peak the northern Stillwater WSA offers excellent primitive recreational opportunities and ruggedness that should be preserved as wilderness. This area is spectacular, wild and quite accessible from population areas--let the miners do their thing outside of these sensitive areas. If necessary allow mining on the periphery and preserve the midrange as a part of the natural landscape for the use and enjoyment of the many as opposed to the monetary gain of the few. As a public agency your main concern should be the benefit of the most people over the longest period of time. I'd like to have a few places where I can take my kids (and theirs) that hasn't been turned into mine slag, condos or ski slopes so somebody else can make money.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Cheri Cinkoske

Comment Letter 47

December 29, 1983
514 Lillie St.
N. Las Vegas NV 89030

Dear Mr. Owen:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your recommendations for wilderness in the Lahontan Resource Area.

I want to support your Preferred Alternative recommending wilderness for the Desatoya Range. This area's Big Den Canyon and 30 foot waterfall make it unique among Nevada wilderness areas. It offers outstanding opportunities for all kinds of primitive and unconfined recreation.

I would urge you to follow the Midrange Alternative regarding the Clan Alpine. The wildlife and abundant streams, as well as spectacular rock formations, call out for wilderness designation. Being one of the largest WSA's in Nevada, it will be a great addition to the Wilderness System.

Your omission of Job's Peak in your Preferred Alternative puzzles me. This area has long been used for rock climbing and cross-country hiking, and the ruggedness and solitude of the area make it perfect wilderness country. The reintroduction of bighorn sheep has helped to enhance the wildlife values of the area.

Finally, I would also urge you to designate the Stillwater WSA as wilderness. By adopting the Midrange Alternative of 30,000 acres and adding the 10,000 acres recommended by conservationists, you would include the backbone of the range and exclude mining activity along the periphery.

Designating all the above areas as wilderness would still only recommend 12 percent of the Lahontan Resource Area. Such a designation is the minimum one would expect, given the outstanding wilderness values of the area.

Sincerely,

Cheri Cinkoske

Cheri Cinkoske

Comment Letter 48

December 27, 1983

Tom Owen, District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
1050 S. Williams St.
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear Mr. Owen:

As a long-time citizen of Nevada, I feel it is my right and duty to voice my full support for the proposed wilderness areas in your district. The wilderness area concept is a far-sighted, intelligent one guaranteeing the existence of unspoiled land, air and water for all all citizens and their posterity to enjoy and treasure now and forever. In addition, I give my full support to the Conservationist's Alternative which includes the following:

- 1) Glen Alps (Midrange Alternative of 150,000 acres)
- 2) Desatoya Range (Preferred Alternative of 43,045 acres)
- 3) Job's Peak (49,000 acres; 37,000 acres of the Midrange plus 11,500 acres in the heart of the WSA)
- 4) Stillwater WSA (Midrange Alternatives of 40,000 acres)

The Conservationist's Alternative recommends all four areas be given wilderness status. This recommendation includes approximately 290,500 acres comprising 12% of the 2.4 million acre Lahontan Resource Area.

Sincerely,

Ernie M. Smith

1050 Williams Ave. A

Paris, NV 89502

Comment Letter 49

December 27, 1983

Tom Owen, District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
1050 S. Williams St.
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear Mr. Owen:

As a long-time citizen of Nevada, I feel it is my right and duty to voice my full support for the proposed wilderness areas in your district. The wilderness area concept is a far-sighted, intelligent one guaranteeing the existence of unspoiled land, air and water for all all citizens and their posterity to enjoy and treasure now and forever. In addition, I give my full support to the Conservationist's Alternative which includes the following:

- 1) Glen Alps (Midrange Alternative of 150,000 acres)
- 2) Desatoya Range (Preferred Alternative of 43,045 acres)
- 3) Job's Peak (49,000 acres; 37,000 acres of the Midrange plus 11,500 acres in the heart of the WSA)
- 4) Stillwater WSA (Midrange Alternatives of 40,000 acres)

The Conservationist's Alternative recommends all four areas be given wilderness status. This recommendation includes approximately 290,500 acres comprising 12% of the 2.4 million acre Lahontan Resource Area.

Sincerely,

Gregory P. Elmer

14 East "I" St.

Sparks, Nevada 89431

Comment Letter 50

December 27, 1983

Tom Owen, District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
1050 E. Williams St.
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear Mr. Owen

As a long-time citizen of Nevada, I feel it is my right and duty to voice my full support for the proposed wilderness areas in your district. The wilderness area concept is a far-sighted, intelligent one guaranteeing the existence of unspoiled land, air and water for all citizens and their posterity to enjoy and treasure now and forever. In addition, I give my full support to the Conservationist's Alternative which includes the following:

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- 2) Desatoya Range (Preferred Alternative of 43,045 acres)
- 3) Job's Peak (49,000 acres; 37,000 acres of the Midrange plus 11,500 acres in the heart of the WSA)
- 4) Stillwater WSA (Midrange Alternatives of 40,000 acres)

The Conservationist's Alternative recommends all four areas be given wilderness status. This recommendation includes approximately 290,500 acres comprising 12% of the 2.4 million acre Lahontan Resource Area.

Sincerely,

William Kerton
1650 Royal
Reno, NV 89502

Comment Letter 51

December 27, 1983

Tom Owen, District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
1050 E. Williams St.
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear Mr. Owen

As a long-time citizen of Nevada, I feel it is my right and duty to voice my full support for the proposed wilderness areas in your district. The wilderness area concept is a far-sighted, intelligent one guaranteeing the existence of unspoiled land, air and water for all citizens and their posterity to enjoy and treasure now and forever. In addition, I give my full support to the Conservationist's Alternative which includes the following:

- 1) Glen Alpine (Midrange Alternative of 150,000 acres)
- 2) Desatoya Range (Preferred Alternative of 43,045 acres)
- 3) Job's Peak (49,000 acres; 37,000 acres of the Midrange plus 11,500 acres in the heart of the WSA)
- 4) Stillwater WSA (Midrange Alternatives of 40,000 acres)

The Conservationist's Alternative recommends all four areas be given wilderness status. This recommendation includes approximately 290,500 acres comprising 12% of the 2.4 million acre Lahontan Resource Area.

Sincerely,

Earl W. Kerton

Prof. : Geography Dept., Univ. of Nevada, Reno 89557
Home Address: 1650 Royal Drive,
Reno, NV. 89502

Comment Letter 52

December 27, 1983

Tom Owen, District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
1050 E. Williams St.
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear Mr. Owen:

As a long-time citizen of Nevada, I feel it is my right and duty to voice my full support for the proposed wilderness areas in your district. The wilderness area concept is a far-sighted, intelligent one guaranteeing the existence of unspoiled land, air and water for all all citizens and their posterity to enjoy and treasure now and forever. In addition, I give my full support to the Conservationist's Alternative which includes the following:

- 1) Glen Alpine (Midrange Alternative of 150,000 acres)
- 2) Desatoya Range (Preferred Alternative of 43,045 acres)
- 3) Job's Peak (49,000 acres; 37,000 acres of the Midrange plus 11,500 acres in the heart of the WSA)
- 4) Stillwater WSA (Midrange Alternatives of 40,000 acres)

The Conservationist's Alternative recommends all four areas be given wilderness status. This recommendation includes approximately 290,500 acres comprising 12% of the 2.4 million acre Lahontan Resource Area.

Sincerely,

Laura Keaton King
1218 Patrick Ave.
Reno, Nevada
87305

Comment Letter 53

December 27, 1983

Tom Owen, District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
1050 E. Williams St.
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear Mr. Owen:

As a long-time citizen of Nevada, I feel it is my right and duty to voice my full support for the proposed wilderness areas in your district. The wilderness area concept is a far-sighted, intelligent one guaranteeing the existence of unspoiled land, air and water for all all citizens and their posterity to enjoy and treasure now and forever. In addition, I give my full support to the Conservationist's Alternative which includes the following:

- 1) Glen Alpine (Midrange Alternative of 150,000 acres)
- 2) Desatoya Range (Preferred Alternative of 43,045 acres)
- 3) Job's Peak (49,000 acres; 37,000 acres of the Midrange plus 11,500 acres in the heart of the WSA)
- 4) Stillwater WSA (Midrange Alternatives of 40,000 acres)

The Conservationist's Alternative recommends all four areas be given wilderness status. This recommendation includes approximately 290,500 acres comprising 12% of the 2.4 million acre Lahontan Resource Area.

Sincerely,

Laura Keaton King
1218 Patrick Ave.
Reno, Nevada
87509

Testimony

Hearings Testimony

T-1 "I'm just going to give you one example of the mineral survey that was missed in the Stillwater Range, Nevada.

I wish to call your attention to rich cobalt and nickel deposits worked in the early 1800's near the summit of the Stillwater Range and shipped clear to Wales for smelting." (p.29 - Warren Richardson)

T-2 "And even on page 46 of the report, it states over the long term loss of primitive and the unconfined types of recreation would occur because eventually if this wilderness concept is continued, they'll have everything out there" (p. 57 - Rudy Adams)

T-3 "In the White Cloud area, White Cloud Canyon, I built a road some 15 years ago. We exported from the ridge of this area that they're wishing to make a wilderness area That road is still in existence, and it's in the wilderness area." (p.79 -Douglas Miller)

T-4 "There's also a tungsten property up near the peak of the - up near the backbone of this ridge, and this a matter of record, and it should have been included as a high mineral area." (p.79 - Douglas Miller)

T-5 "I personally have driven this area all the way from Pondelet (Fondaway) Canyon on the west up over the ridge and down on the other side" (p.80 - Douglas Miller)

Response

T-1 The area in question lies outside the boundaries of the Stillwater Range Wilderness Study Area to the north.

T-2 The reference to page 4-6 of the Draft RFP/EIS concerning the loss of primitive and unconfined types of recreation over the long term deals with the anticipated impacts should the areas not be designated as wilderness. This is expected to occur due to anticipated increases in vehicle oriented recreation and the continuation or expansion of other resource uses which could impair or destroy wilderness values in the long term.

T-3 The road up to the mouth of White Cloud Canyon has been excluded from the Wilderness Study Area. Another road approaches White Cloud Canyon from Grises Canyon to the north and drops into upper White Cloud Canyon prior to providing access to a large private inholding to the south. A portion of this road was newly constructed in accordance with the DFE. The entire WSA has been recommended unsuitable for wilderness designation, in part because of problems such as these.

T-4 The tungsten property was considered and contributed to the high favorability rating given this area (Ref. Stillwater Range GEM Technical Report).

T-5 The road which crosses the Stillwater Range follows East and West Job Canyons. It is outside the boundaries of both the Stillwater Range and Job Peak Wilderness Study Areas. There is no road crossing the range in the vicinity of Pondelet Canyon.

Testimony

T-6 "Our present management plans are grandfathered in and will they supercede the EIS? We have a three mile long pipeline to be built in East Lee Canyon which is shown in our AMP. We have been told this supercedes the proposed wilderness withdrawal. Is this correct? (p.8 - Ira Kent)

T-7 "4-19 We helped plant fish in Horse Creek, the dams, Shrittail Canyon, Coyote, Edwards Creek. How are you going to put outthroat back in these native habitat when they were never there? None of the rest of the streams mentioned ever have had fish and will not sustain them." (p.8 - Ira Kent)

Response

T-6 The Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review (IMP) allows the installation of a series or system of range improvements within a MSA if a part of that series or system has been installed before the enactment of FLPMA (October 21, 1976) under an agreement between the BLM and the grazing operator.

An Allotment Management Plan between the BLM and Mr. Kent was originally signed in 1968 and amended in 1970. A portion of this plan called for the construction of three pipelines, two of which have been built. The third pipeline, two miles long and to be placed in East Lee Canyon, has not yet been constructed.

Installation of this pipeline is permissible under the terms of the IMP subject to reasonable mitigation measures designed to prevent unnecessary and undue degradation of the lands.

T-7 The Lahontan Basin supported Lahontan Outthroat Trout. Individual streams may have lost their populations prior to the settling of the area due to droughts and flash floods.

The Nevada Department of Wildlife is conducting an inventory to determine which streams in the RMP area will sustain Lahontan Outthroat Trout at this time.

Those streams selected as potential habitat as fisheries will be supported by the BLM.

Testimony

T-8 "Page 7-32. This data is very badly outdated and is very misleading to the average person." (p. 8 - Ira Kent)

T-9 "Page 758, The Lahontan Wilderness Technical Report, no winter grazing Lahontan Valley rock which needs to be corrected. It evidently was eliminated when the technical report was being drafted." (p. 9 - Ira Kent)

T-10 "We do not believe lands containing energy and mineral resource potential should be designated as wilderness. It is imperative that priority consideration be given to exploration in those areas which contain mineral resource potential.

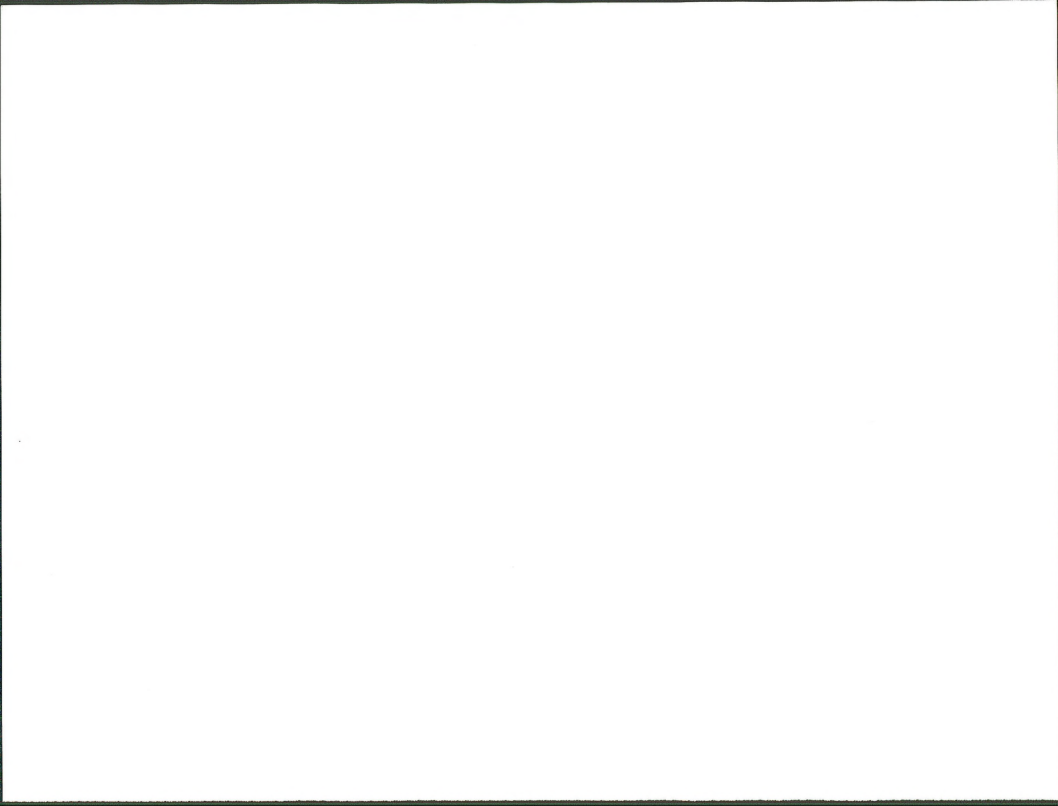
We think there's a major factor which must be taken into account in the determination of what type of protective management is warranted or required" (p. 18 - Lynn Modell)

Response

T-8 The table on page 7-32 is based on the most recent comprehensive data available. The data was obtained from a ranch budget survey conducted in October and November of 1982. Fifteen Lahontan area ranchers provided this data. The data was used to develop preliminary ranch budgets. These were mailed to all of the livestock permittees in the RWP area as well as the Cooperative Extension Service in Fallon in April, 1983 with a request for comments on their accuracy. The data used in the Draft RWP/EIS were the result of those comments.

T-9 The Lahontan Wilderness Technical Report states that grazing in the La Plata/Mountain Well, Dixie Valley and White Cloud allotments takes place primarily in the spring, summer and fall. There is winter grazing in these allotments, however, little occurs in the Job Peak NSA. In the other three seasons the entire range is being utilized, while in the winter cattle tend to congregate at the lower elevations below the NSA.

T-10 Prior to designation of any lands in the Lahontan Resource Area as wilderness, an intensive survey of each area's mineral resource potential will be conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines. Wilderness suitability recommendations could be amended or even reversed based upon the outcome of these surveys.



GLOSSARY

The first part of the paper discusses the importance of understanding the cultural context of the research. It highlights the need for researchers to be sensitive to the values and beliefs of the communities they are studying. This is particularly important in the field of health research, where cultural differences can significantly impact the effectiveness of interventions.

The second part of the paper focuses on the methodology used in the study. It describes the process of selecting participants, collecting data, and analyzing the results. The authors emphasize the importance of using a mixed-methods approach, which combines quantitative and qualitative data to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the research topic.

The third part of the paper presents the findings of the study. It discusses the results of the quantitative analysis, which showed a significant correlation between the variables being studied. The authors also present the results of the qualitative analysis, which provided valuable insights into the experiences and perspectives of the participants.

The final part of the paper discusses the implications of the findings for practice and policy. It suggests that the results of the study can be used to inform the development of culturally appropriate interventions and policies. The authors also discuss the limitations of the study and suggest areas for future research.

GLOSSARY

ABBREVIATIONS

AMP : Allotment Management Plan
AUM : Animal Unit Month
BLM : Bureau of Land Management
CFR : Code of Federal Regulations
EIS : Environmental Impact Statement
FLPMA: Federal Land Policy and
Management Act of 1976
GEM : Geology, Energy and Minerals
Report
IMP : Interim Management Policy
NWPS : National Wilderness
Preservation System
ORV : Off-Road Vehicle
RA : Resource Area
SCORP: State Comprehensive Outdoor
Recreation Plan
VRM : Visual Resource Management
WSA : Wilderness Study Area

TERMS

ALLOTMENT: An area designated for the use of a prescribed number and kind of livestock.

ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN (AMP): A documented program which applies to livestock operations on the public lands and is prepared in consultation with the permittee(s) or lessee(s) involved.

ALLUVIAL FAN: A fan-shaped deposit of stream wash materials made where the stream runs out onto a level plain.

ANIMAL UNIT MONTH (AUM): The amount of forage necessary for the sustenance of one cow or its equivalent for one month.

AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN (ACEC): An area where special management attention is required to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife

resources, or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.

CHERRYSTEM: A boundary configuration in which the boundary of a wilderness study area or proposed wilderness is drawn around a dead-end road or other linear feature so as to exclude that road or feature from the wilderness study area or proposed wilderness.

CHERRYSTEM ROAD: A dead-end road excluded from wilderness study by means of a cherrystem.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: Those fragile and non-renewable remains of human activity, occupation, or endeavor reflected in districts, sites, structures, buildings, objects, artifacts, ruins, works of art, architecture and natural features that were of importance in human events. These resources consist of
(1) physical remains
(2) areas where significant human events occurred--even though evidence of the event may no longer remain and
(3) the environment immediately surrounding the resource.

DISCOVERY: A term used in connection with mining claims. As stated in a legal ruling which has been upheld in many later decisions, it is "where minerals have been found and the evidence is often of such a character that a person of ordinary prudence would be justified in the further expenditure of his labor and means, with a reasonable prospect of success, in developing a valuable mine..."

ECOSYSTEM: A complex self-sustaining natural system which includes living and non-living components of the environment and the interactions that bind them together. Its functioning involves the circulation of matter and energy between organisms and their environment.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: Any species in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range, as identified in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

GRAZING PREFERENCE: The total number of animal unit months (AUMs) of livestock use apportioned and attached to base property owned or controlled by a permittee or lessee for grazing on public lands.

HABITAT: All elements of an organism's environment needed to complete its life cycle through reproduction including, but not limited to food, cover, water and living space in the amounts, qualities and locations which the organism requires to complete its life cycle.

INHOLDING: State or privately owned property surrounded by the WSA.

LEASABLE MINERALS: Those minerals subject to lease by the Federal Government. Includes oil and gas, coal, geothermal, phosphate, sodium, potash and oil shale.

LOCATABLE MINERALS: Minerals subject to disposal and development through the Mining Law of 1872 (as amended). Generally includes metallic minerals such as gold and silver and other materials not subject to lease or sale.

LONG-TERM: Thirty years or more from the implementation of the Congressionally selected alternative.

MANAGEABLE WOODLAND: Any woodland area of 10% or greater crown cover located on a slope of 30% or less which has existing or potential feasible access.

MESOZOIC: An era of geologic time following the Paleozoic era and succeeded by the Cenozoic era.

MINERAL ENTRY: Claim location on Federal lands open to mining for the purpose of exploration or exploitation of minerals located there.

MINING DISTRICT: A section of country usually designated by name and described or understood as being confined within certain natural boundaries, in which gold or silver or other minerals may be found in paying quantities.

MINERAL POTENTIAL:

High Mineral Potential: The geologic environment, the inferred geologic processes, the reported mineral occurrences, and the known mines or deposits indicate high favorability for accumulation of mineral resources.

Moderate Mineral Potential: The geologic environment, the inferred geologic process, and the reported mineral occurrences indicate moderate favorability for accumulation of mineral resources.

Low Mineral Potential: The geologic environment and the inferred geologic processes indicate low favorability for accumulation of mineral resources.

NATURALNESS: Refers to an area which "generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable." (from Section 2(c), Wilderness Act of 1964).

OFF-ROAD VEHICLE (ORV): Any motorized vehicle capable of, or designed for travel on or immediately over land, water, or other natural terrain.

OUTSTANDING (Wilderness): 1. standing out among others of its kind; conspicuous; prominent. 2. superior to others of its kind; distinguished; excellent.

PATENTED MINING CLAIM: A claim in which title has passed from the Federal Government to the mining claimant under the mining laws.

PERMITTEE: One who holds a permit to graze livestock on public land.

POST-FLPMA: The period of time after the enactment of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (October 21, 1976).

PRELIMINARY WILDERNESS

RECOMMENDATION: Refers to a wilderness recommendation at any stage prior to the time when the Secretary of the Interior reports his recommendation to the President. Until the Secretary acts, the recommendation is "preliminary" because it is subject to change during administrative review.

PRESCRIBED BURNING: Controlled application of fire to wildland fuels in either their natural or modified state, under such conditions of weather, fuel moisture, etc., as to allow the fire to be confined to a predetermined area while producing the intensity of heat and rate of spread required to achieve certain planned objectives of silviculture, wildlife management, grazing, fire hazard reduction and insect and disease control.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: Nonmotorized and nondeveloped types of outdoor recreational activities.

RANGE IMPROVEMENTS: Any activity on or relating to rangeland designed to improve production of forage, change vegetation composition, control pattern of use, provide water, stabilize soil and water conditions and enhance habitat for livestock, fish, wildlife and wild horses and burros.

RECREATION VISITOR DAY: A 12-hour period spent in recreation activities by one or more individuals in a public land area. The time may be spent, for example, by one individual for 12 hours or 3 individuals for 4 hours each. Visitor days rather than visitor hours are used in this document for convenience.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN (RMP): The basic decision document of BLM's resource management planning process, used to establish allocation and coordination among uses for the various resources with a Resource Area. An RMP is a "land-use plan" prescribed by Section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. The RMP regulations appear at 43 CFR 1601.

RIGHT-OF-WAY: An easement license or permit; does not grant an estate of any kind, only the right of use. May also include a site.

RIPARIAN: Situated on or pertaining to the bank of a river, stream, or other body of water. Normally used to refer to plants of all types that grow along streams or around springs.

ROAD: A vehicle route which has been improved and maintained by mechanical means to ensure relatively regular and continuous use.

ROADLESS: For the purpose of the wilderness review program, this refers to the absence of roads which have been improved and maintained by mechanical means to ensure relatively regular and continuous use. A way maintained solely by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road.

SCOPING PROCESS: An early and open process for determining the significant issues related to a proposed action which are to be addressed in the environmental impact statement.

SHORT-TERM: The thirty-year period following the implementation of the Congressionally selected alternative.

SIGNIFICANT IMPACT: A meaningful standard to which an action may impact the environment. The impact may be beneficial, adverse, direct, or indirect.

SOLITUDE (Wilderness): 1. The state of being alone or remote from habitation; Isolation. 2. A lonely, unfrequented, or secluded place.

SUITABLE FOR PRESERVATION AS WILDERNESS: Refers to a recommendation that certain Federal lands satisfy the definition of wilderness in the Wilderness Act and have been found appropriate for designation as wilderness on the basis of an analysis of the existing and potential uses of the land.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: Values that may be present in an area under consideration for wilderness, such as ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value. They are not required for wilderness designation, but their presence will enhance an area's wilderness quality.

THREATENED SPECIES: Any species which is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

VALID EXISTING RIGHTS: Valid existing rights as of October 21, 1976 will be recognized. Examples of valid existing rights include: a valid mining claim, a mineral lease, or a right-of-way authorization. Valid existing rights are not absolute. The scope of a valid existing right depends upon any conditions, stipulations or limitations stated in the law or approval document that create the right.

VALID MINING CLAIM: A mining claim on which a discovery has been made. (See "discovery".)

VEGETATION MANIPULATION: Alteration of vegetation by fire, mechanical, chemical, or biological means to meet management objective.

WAY: A vehicle route which has not been improved and maintained by mechanical means to ensure relatively regular and continuous use. A vehicle route established and maintained solely by the passage of motor vehicles.

WILDERNESS: An uncultivated, uninhabited, and usually roadless area set aside for preservation of natural conditions. According to Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964.

A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, education, scenic, or historical value.

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS: Key characteristics of a wilderness listed in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964 and used by BLM in its wilderness inventory. These characteristics include size, naturalness, outstanding opportunities for solitude, outstanding opportunities for primitive or unconfined recreation and supplemental values.

WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT POLICY: This policy document prescribes the general objectives, policies, and specific activity guidance applicable to all designated BLM wilderness areas. Specific management objectives, requirements, and decisions implementing administrative practices and visitor activities in individual wilderness areas are developed and described in the wilderness management plan for each unit.

WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATIONS: A recommendation by the Bureau of Land Management, the Secretary of the Interior, or the President, with respect to an area's suitability or nonsuitability for preservation as wilderness.

WILDERNESS STUDY AREA (WSA): A roadless area or island that has been inventoried and found to have wilderness characteristics as described in the Wilderness Act of 1964.

WILDERNESS STUDY CRITERIA: The criteria and quality standards developed in the Wilderness Study Policy to guide planning efforts in the wilderness EISs.

WILDERNESS VALUES: The wilderness characteristics and multiple resource benefits of an area.

WITHDRAWAL: Removal, or withholding, of public lands by statute, or Secretarial order, from operation of

some or all of the public land laws ("surface" mining and/or mineral leasing laws).

WOODLAND: Land producing trees that are typically utilized for nonsaw timber products and sold in units other than board feet.

WOODLAND PRODUCTS: Any useful tree product produced from woodlands such as: fuelwood, posts, poles, nuts and Christmas trees.



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